

NEWS ROUNDUP

RUC arrest 5 in building inquiry

The Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday announced a breakthrough in the campaign against building site rackets that have netted terrorist groups in Northern Ireland millions of pounds in recent years.

The arrests of five men — three in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, and two in Holloway, north London — came after a two-year operation by the RUC and Inland Revenue.

The RUC said all the men were being questioned about terrorist-related offences associated with republican racketeering.

The arrests were part of a much wider investigation which is continuing on building sites in London, Merseyside, Birmingham and Glasgow, as well as in Northern Ireland.

Tax fraud and protection rackets operated by both republican and "loyalist" groups are said to put up the price of house-building in Northern Ireland by as much as 20 per cent.

The Housing Executive, the province's sole housing authority, was accused in a court case last year of turning a blind eye to the racketeering which has cost UK taxpayers millions of pounds over the past decade.

Three members of the same family were being questioned yesterday after security forces found a Soviet made RPG7 rocket launcher in a garden shed on the republican Craggan estate in Londonderry.

Life for hospital killer

A man who shot dead his former girl friend in a hospital ward, while her policeman guard telephoned to warn a senior officer that she might be in danger, was jailed for life at Aylesbury Crown Court, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. David Jenkins, aged 25, of Grace Way, Stevenage, who was besotted with Carolyn Myland, also from Stevenage, killed her with a single blast from a shotgun. He fired after pulling back the curtain of the cubicle where Miss Myland, aged 24, was awaiting treatment for a knife wound he had inflicted.

'Gay' clause opposed

Members of the actors' union, Equity, yesterday voted to increase opposition to the clause in the Local Government Finance Bill which bans local authorities from promoting homosexuality. Members rejected a strike call by Miss Vanessa Redgrave but instructed the union council to monitor the effects of the clause and to produce guidelines to prevent members from self-censoring their work.

Cardiologist retires

A heart specialist who objects to the ethics of transplants is retiring early from Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge. Dr David Wainwright Evans, aged 60, a consultant cardiologist, has opposed heart transplants since they began at the hospital in 1979. Dr Evans, who was at the centre of a dispute over brain death which caused transplant numbers to dwindle, claimed again yesterday that donors were not yet dead when their hearts were removed.

Potato beetle alert

An alert was issued last night after Colorado beetles were found in a consignment of parsley imported from Italy. Traders and the public were urged to report any sightings immediately as government officials tried to trace the parsley. Five beetles, which are half an inch long with yellow and black stripes were found in Glasgow.

Very bad for business

When Mr Andrew Dunley, sales director of Simba Security Systems, arrived for the opening day of the International Fire Protection and Security Exhibition at Olympia, he found that thieves had stolen his firm's display of remote controlled car alarms.

Confusion greets social security reforms

Claimants besiege offices

By Staff Reporters

The age of new social security payments dawned yesterday amid intense confusion among claimants and sporadic protests from groups of Civil Servants concerned that the new rates could lead to increased violence against them.

Assistants have been on training courses studying the new system since last autumn, but the complexity of the regulations meant that few claimants could be told their new payments. The majority will have to wait for a detailed calculation.

The regulations also prompted a demonstration from pensioners outside Downing Street where their spokesman, Mr Jack Jones, the former trade union leader, accused the Government of "robbing" them through the changes.

Officials at the Bloomsbury social security office, central London, had to close their doors at noon because of the number of claimants, many of whom were eager to establish their new entitlement, after it had been closed for four weeks because of industrial action.

Claimants arriving at the office in Ealing, Birmingham, also found the doors locked by staff who were protesting about job cuts. Members of the Civil and Public Services Association said that 26 jobs were to be lost because of the introduction of the new system.

At the offices in Peckham, south London, the sign on the door summed up the mood of the staff: "Peckham DHSS (Department of Health and Social Security) officers are not responsible for the allocation of the new social fund. Please do not take it out on them." The plea survived for half an hour. By 10am it had been ripped down by a frustrated claimant.

Indeed, emotions ranged from confusion to fury yesterday as claimants tried to come to terms with the new system.

Lisa Brown, aged 19, an unemployed single mother, had arrived at 10.30am expecting to be able to claim for a cot for her baby girl, who was born last week one month prematurely.

Under the old system she could have expected a special payment for a vital piece of equipment that she could not afford. After waiting four hours, she was told she could

now be considered only for a loan. "How can I pay back the money for a cot when I cannot even pay my heating bill? I have to keep the heating on for my baby the whole time", she said.

One mother of two was in tears after discovering the new rules on emergency payments. Before yesterday she could have expected an emergency refund after losing her laundry benefit cheque for £46. Under the new rules, officers are able to make emergency payments only if the money has been lost through the fault of the DHSS. "I don't know how I'm going to manage", Mrs Cindy O'Reilly, aged 29, said. "I face a huge laundry bill because my daughter Pamela wets her bed two or three times a night."

At Bloomsbury, several young mothers, their babies in push-chairs, were turned away after arriving to pick up new allowance order books. Miss Albina Flynn, aged 24, who is six months pregnant, was hoping to be given a giro cheque for £34.50 but the booted doors meant she was forced to return home.

The pressure on the DHSS offices also meant that Miss Anita Garcia, from north London, was unable to be



Demonstrators protesting at the new social security system yesterday in Bloomsbury, central London.

given a cheque for the £319 she is owed in child benefit arrears. "I think I will be better off under the new system, but I am obviously anxious to know officially. All I know so far is from the newspapers", she said.

At offices in Birmingham, Civil Servants put up placards claiming that the "richest gain most" and "62 per cent of claimants lose".

Mrs Grace Taylor, aged 54, of Castle Vale, who arrived to claim invalidity benefit for her sick husband, Leslie, aged 58, said: "I do not know whether the changes will affect us because I cannot get in to find out, but I am worried about the future."

"I suppose I can sympathize with the staff because I have been here before and it has been terrible. It was packed out and people were barging about."

In Scotland, as with most other parts of the country, staff were dealing with tens of thousands of single payment claims lodged before the deadline last Friday.

Benefit offices such as the one at Glasgow Craigton in the city's Paisley Road West deal with up to 1,000 claim-

ants each week, but yesterday most claimants were still waiting to see how the new rules would affect them.

Figures show that almost a third of Scots now live below or on the poverty line. One of them, Mr John Bullock, was waiting at the Amiesland office, which serves the vast Drumchapel housing estate on the edge of Glasgow. "I got £37 last week. I am just waiting to see what I get this week. I don't really understand the changes, it just matters what I get in the end", he said.

Craigton normally deals with between 800 and 1,000 supplementary benefit claims and about 200 requests for single payments a week. Mr Ian Brisbane, the office's manager, said that over the past six weeks single payment requests had been running at almost 200 a day.

"The first real reaction from people will be when we get requests for 'crisis' loans coming through. Formerly, these crisis payments were in the form of grants for anything from children's clothing to household furniture, but will now be repayable loans."

The confusion intensified as the Church of Scotland con-

demned the widening of the gulf between the rich and the poor.

Professor Duncan Forrester, one of the editors of a book compiled by a church working party on the distribution of wealth, said: "Social security re-arrangements which make life more difficult for many poor people are particularly offensive when others prosper exceedingly".

Professor Forrester, speaking in Edinburgh at the launch of the book, *Just Sharing - A Christian Approach to the Distribution of Wealth, Income and Benefits*, said that a society which "humiliated" poor people and which increased means testing was evil. "A society that tolerates or neglects increasing poverty is a sick society."

Advice offices forced to shut

By Jill Sherman Social Services Correspondent

Citizens Advice Bureaux were forced to close their doors yesterday as streams of benefit claimants sought help to get extra money.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said that many of their officers arrived in the morning to find queues outside their doors. "Within minutes offices were crammed shoulder to shoulder with claimants who were unable to believe that they no longer qualified for this or that benefit," the association said. "In many cases offices reached saturation point and had to close their doors."

The most common inquiry concerned housing benefit. "People could not believe that they had to pay 20 per cent of their rates without getting it back some other way," the association's spokesman said. "Many were both shocked and worried and felt they are being left high and dry."

Charities were also inundated with calls from claimants no longer able to get single payments for beds and cookers. The Family Welfare Association said it had had to close its grants section for all clients except children, the sick and pensioners, because it had already allocated most of its funds. "We will now only look at applications from these special groups but we cannot guarantee that we will pay up," the association said.

The association gave one example where a family of six children asked for financial assistance after a fire in their house which was not insured for contents. After being refused help by the DHSS, the family applied for a grant from the FWA to cover beds and bedding, kitchen equipment and clothing. The FWA estimated that they needed at least £1,200 but could give them only £60.

The new benefit rates will leave many of the poor undernourished, according to a survey by a district dietician in Bradford, Mrs Fran Hanes, which shows that a healthy diet for a teenager would take up 80 per cent of the allowance a family would get for their child under the new income support benefit.

Speelman holds on to lead

Jonathan Speelman, Britain's chess world championship quarter-finalist, has maintained his grip on the lead in the £100,000 World Cup Tournament being played in Brussels.

Speelman kept first place in spite of not playing in the eighth round on Sunday, after his opponent, the Soviet grand master, Rafael Vaganian, withdrew because of a family bereavement.

Scores after the eighth round leave Speelman on five points from seven games, ahead of Salov and Karpov of the Soviet Union with five points from eight games. Karpov beat Sokolov on Sunday, while Salov drew his game with J Timman.

Other results: L Winants lost to V Korchnoi; G Sax drew with L Ljubojevic; J Nunn drew with U Andersson; J Nogueiras lost to A Beliavsky; L Portisch drew with M Tal; and the game between Y Seirawan and P Nikolic was adjourned with the latter holding some advantage.

By the Times overseas: Austria Sch 29; Belgium B 29; Canada Sch 29; Denmark D 12; Finland M 2; France F 2; Germany DM 3; Gibraltar 70; Greece G 2; Holland H 3; Iceland I 2; Ireland IR 2; Italy I 3; Luxembourg L 2; Mexico M 2; Norway N 2; Pakistan P 2; Portugal PT 2; Spain S 2; Sweden SW 2; Tunisia T 2; USA US 2; USSR U 3.

Traffic management Lost drivers 'waste £200m'

By Paul Vallely

Lost motorists waste about £200 million a year driving on roads which they need never use in the first place, according to a confidential report on road signs which is being prepared for the Department of Transport.

While many do not know where they are going, their main problem is the most of them do not know where they are, the report said.

Details of the report was disclosed yesterday as authorities struggle to speed up the ever-decreasing pace of traffic in congested cities.

The Department of Transport is sponsoring a £160,000 pilot project, which will begin this summer, to re-signpost the town of Guildford, Surrey, in a style which includes new junction name signs.

It is also considering erecting junction warning signs along the central reservation of motorways to supplement the big signs which are often partially obscured by undergrowth. According to a recent survey by the Automobile Association, about 288 of 846 motorway signs had their junction numbers obscured.

The £200million spent by lost motorists, a combination of money spent unnecessarily on petrol, road repairs and on drivers' time, was constantly increasing, the report said.

In London, drivers will travel almost 100 million miles more than they did last

year. Their average speed during peak periods has declined from nearly 13 mph in 1970 to less than 12 mph.

Movement for London, the roads pressure group, which predicts a 50 per cent rise in the number of people travelling to work by car in the capital by 2001, said the situation can only get worse.

Surveys of the area bounded by the M25 showed that signposts at many of the 10,000 crucial junctions were "inadequate and incomplete". Among them, "many errors have been found, omissions and inconsistencies abound, and information overload is commonplace".

The two most troublesome factors about road signs, according to an interim version of the report commissioned from the MVA Consultancy, was that they did not identify a driver's present location and that they were prone to misleading inconsistencies.

The report, to be published next August, said: "Motorists' first requirement from signs is... to recognize the point on the map which has been reached. They must know where they are before they can be told where to go."

It said that road signs were misleading in a number of ways. They omitted destinations which had previously

been prominently displayed. They gave undue weight to destinations which were not important. They failed also to keep up with changes in the road network.

The report calls for the elimination of inconsistencies, the replacement of all pre-1963 signs and the removal of trees, hedges, bus stops and shop canopies which prevent easy visual assimilation of sign information.

It recommends the addition of town names to legends which at present read "Town Centre", and suggests that a numbering system for road junctions be introduced on a trial basis.

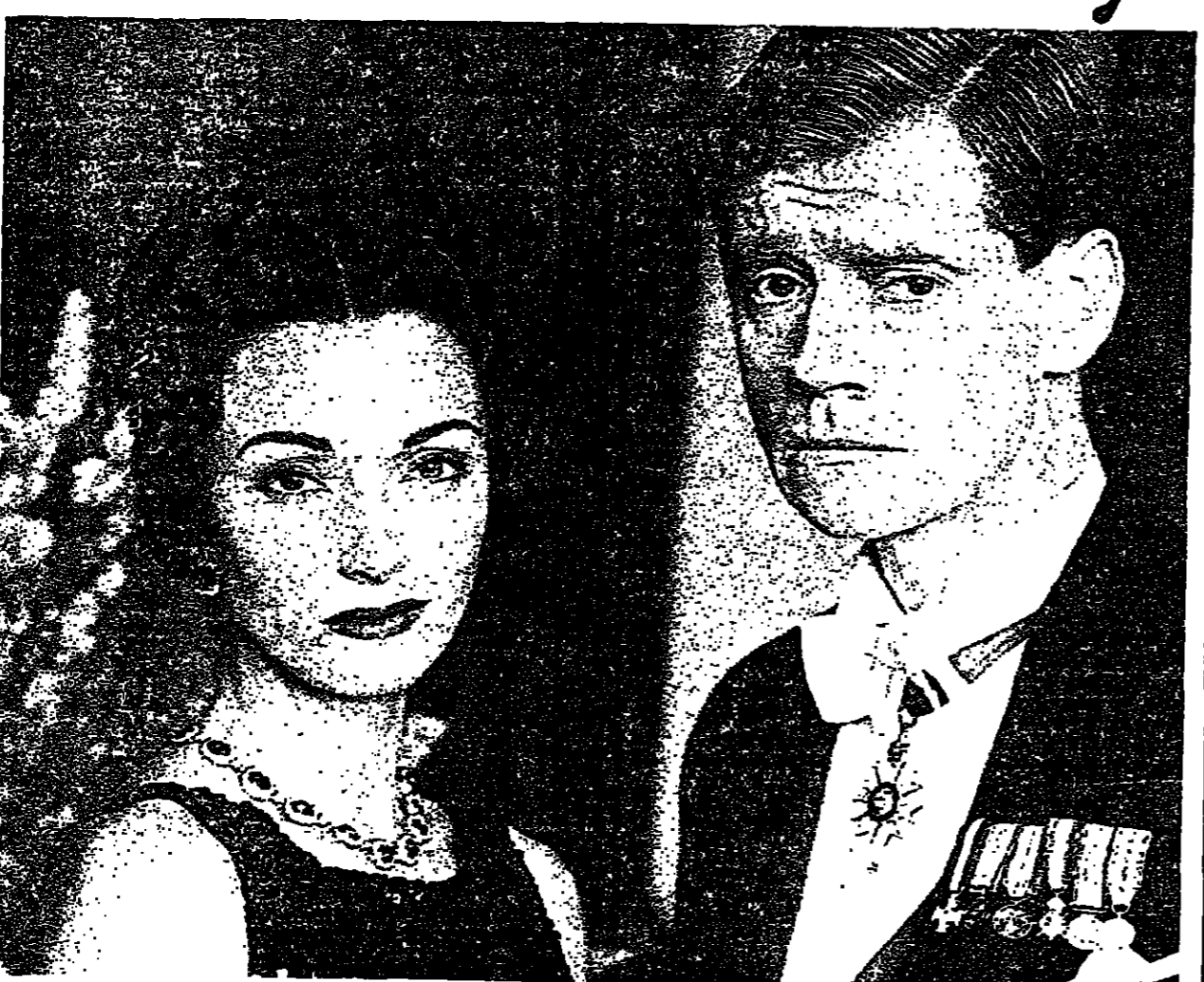
The report also offers a more radical approach, which includes the erection of a new sign system for primary routes throughout London.

This would introduce compass points, pare down the amount of information on signs and denote certain destinations whose importance originally derives from their existence as intermediary destinations in the days of horse coaches.

Among the names which would disappear would be Richmond, Croydon, Dagenham, Kew Bridge, Kingston, Westminster, Woolwich Ferry and the West End.

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Tonight. The love story of the century.



THE WOMAN HE LOVED
Anthony Andrews stars as Edward, Prince of Wales and Jane Seymour as American divorcee Wallis Simpson in one of the century's greatest love stories.
TONIGHT AT 8 PM.



هكذا من الأهل

Controllers see air miss jets 'merge'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Air traffic controllers at West Drayton watched helplessly yesterday as the radar "blips" from two jets carrying a total of more than 320 people merged head on into one as they passed over Wales.

A full investigation is being held into the incident which could have brought the aircraft to within half a mile of each other.

An American Airlines DC 10 on its way from Dallas to Gatwick with 228 passengers and eight crew was given permission to head for a beacon at Strumble Head, Dyfed, at a height of 31,000ft.

But at the same time an Aer Lingus Boeing 737 with 80 passengers was heading to the same spot at the same height in the opposite direction before turning right towards Dublin.

Somewhat, it is believed, the DC10 was "missed" by at least two and possibly three controllers whose attention was drawn to the incident only when they heard both pilots report seeing each other.

American Airlines claims that the aircraft did not come closer than two miles but Aer Lingus says that it could have been as close as half a mile.

Significantly the Civil Aviation Authority, which released details of the air miss under its new policy of immediate disclosure, refused to say that it did not carry any risk — its normal statement in non-serious incidents.

Although air misses can happen twice a week in the summer season yesterday's incident was clearly more serious than most.

Jaguar workers to strike as talks fail

By Craig Seton

Workers at Jaguar will strike from Monday unless the car company withdraws its threat to impose productivity changes, a union official said last night.

Mr Christopher Liddell, the Transport and General Workers' Union officer with responsibility for the motor industry in the Coventry area, said the unions involved were willing to hold further talks to explore ways out of the dispute.

However, they remained bewildered that Jaguar had chosen such an "entirely inopportune moment" to announce that it would impose its productivity plans.

The decision of the workforce in the strike ballot three weeks ago was to resist by industrial action any measures the company took to impose

new productivity arrangements without agreement, Mr Liddell said.

Yesterday, management told shop stewards representing the 4,000 assembly line workers at the Browns Lane, Coventry, plant it would go ahead from next Monday with plans to increase production by 92 cars a week.

After yesterday's talks, which lasted three hours, Jaguar said: "We have explained our position yet again to union representatives, but they have maintained their objections to our proposals. As a result, we intend to start phasing in increases in productivity from April 18."

The manual workers stood to gain an extra £12.50 a week in bonuses from the production schedules.

Doc... was Brin... Comput... Fire test at King... Concern...

£4,000 rises to ease crown prosecution recruitment crisis

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Large pay increases have been offered by the Treasury to the crown prosecution service and the rest of the government legal service to tackle the acute shortage of lawyers and improve recruitment.

The offer, to be announced this week, ranges from 7 to 12.6 per cent. It will mean a £2,000 rise in starting salaries for crown prosecutors, coupled with a new top salary of £14,000 above present rates.

The offer comes after representations to the Treasury by Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Solicitor General, both of whom have been extremely concerned by the recruitment crisis in the government legal service.

There have also been intense negotiations between Treasury officials and the crown prosecutors' union, the First Division Association, which has consistently pressed for a substantial pay rise if recruits are to be attracted and existing lawyers retained.

The crown prosecution service is still 450 lawyers below strength and there are shortages in almost every government legal department. Last year nearly 60 of the 100 or so posts remained unfilled.

Under the offer, the pay structure is reformed so that crown prosecutors can move more quickly to the top; at present, if a lawyer was appointed at the bottom of the scale, this could take him eight years.

Once at the top, there is the possibility of awards earned through "performance" points, up to £20,532 compared with the current top salary of £16,576.

The pay package is effectively staggered: the 600 crown prosecutors receive a 7 per cent rise from April 1, when the top scale rises from £16,576 to £17,736.

On October 1, the scales are restructured and the present starting point scrapped. This means that the new starting point moves from £11,603 to £13,125. This excludes allowances paid for working in and around London.

At the same time, those at the top of the scale have the chance of three "performance" points, each 5 per cent above the other, to a top salary of £20,532.

Under the new scales which will come into effect in October, many crown prosecutors will receive a further rise ranging from 1.54 up to 5.6 per cent, making a total increase of between 7 and 12.63 per cent.

A similar flexible pay package is offered to senior and branch crown prosecutors, in line with that for the rest of the Government legal service, starting with 7 per cent from April 1 with the prospect of further increases in October.

The offer is going out shortly to First Division Association members and is likely, in principle, to be accepted. One lawyer commented: "The offer does seem rather startling compared to what we were paid when the CPS was set up. But it should go a long way towards helping the recruitment problem."

Fight against crime

Violence 'breeds in youth'

By Mark Ellis

Children are turning to crime from the age of 11 and the battle against street violence should be waged in their homes, classrooms and on television, Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday.

The seeds of criminality were sown at an early age, when politicians and government powers had no effect, but influence could be exerted by parents, teachers and the media, Mr Patten told a conference in London.

He said the peak age for offending was 15. Thirty per cent of all recorded crime was committed by those aged 16 or younger.

Mr Patten, who has special responsibility for crime prevention, said the influence which decided if a child would "grow crooked or straight" were received at home, watching television and at school.

"We are only just beginning to get to know how to strike at the roots of criminality. The roots of aggression at work are found inside individuals and those individuals form attitudes to authorities and their fellow men and women at 11 or 12", he said.

Fear of crime was detracting from the quality of life of women and the elderly, although crimes of violence accounted for only 5 per cent of reported crime.

The police would gain thousands of extra man hours to tackle crimes of violence if their time was not spent investigating preventable burglaries. One in four happened because people left doors or windows open. Investigations into car thefts used up one million man hours last year.

Mr Patten said: "Just imagine how much better police time could be spent if not so much time was wasted by people not taking care of their property."

Mr Patten outlined a number of initiatives to cut crime at the conference on aggression and vulnerability at work, which was organized by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and London University's department of extra mural studies. However, he said that the problem could not be solved

by the police, the courts and probation services. He said a big community effort was needed to tackle the causes of crime rather than deal with its symptoms. Violence at work was a reflection of a general trend in society. More needed to be done to break down the malign features of individual behaviour.

This task could not be done by the Government and other agencies alone. However, Mr Patten said that the Government had launched an £11 million crime prevention advertising campaign covering the next three years. Last week, he had launched the "Safer Cities Programme" in Wolverhampton, one of 20 high-crime urban areas targeted for special efforts to cut the number of offences.

He said he had considered a blueprint for a national organization to spread news of successful crime prevention schemes and to swap ideas, as well as to co-ordinate voluntary and public sector efforts.

Jet carver revives a dying craft



Mr Roy Jay displaying samples of his jet jewellery and other objects at his Whitby workshop (Photograph: Chris Harris).

By Peter Davenport

In a dim and dusty attic workshop which could have come straight from a Charles Dickens novel, Mr Roy Jay toils to keep alive an ancient but almost defunct craft.

At its height, the manufacture of jewellery from jet, a semi-precious, coal-black stone, provided 1,500 jobs at the fishing port of Whitby, North Yorkshire.

Mr Jay, aged 42, is the only apprentice-trained jet carver still working in the town, turning out a big range of articles from rings at about £5 each to specially commissioned necklaces or carvings which sell for hundreds of pounds.

He learnt the craft in a five-year apprenticeship from the age of 15 and still uses traditional tools and techniques. It is delicate but dirty work. "Everything is permanently covered in a fine black dust and that includes me. It's like working at the coal face and I have to get bathed every evening when I finish."

Its height of popularity came when Queen Victoria chose to wear jet as a sign of mourning after the death of the Prince Consort. However, it was its association with death, the trade which created the boom, that led to its decline.

There are no longer any working jet mines. Mr Jay and a few others who have trained themselves depend for their raw material on jet washed up on the beach or found lying in exposed seams in the cliffs.

However, Mr Jay said: "I don't want my sons to take up the business unless they specifically want to, so I suppose in a few years I am going to have to start training somebody who can carry on the tradition when I finally finish."

Spotlight on job training

Firms 'must invest more in people'

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The economic success of Britain in the next decade will depend on investing in people rather than machinery, a conference in London will be told today.

The biggest conference on training to be held in Europe, with more than 1,200 experts taking part, will be told by Mr Roger Dawe, director general of the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), the critical factor for advancement in the 1990s will be the application of knowledge and skills.

Mr Dawe will tell the opening of the three-day Human Resource Development conference at the Barbican that employers should regard training not as a social responsibility but as an investment and the key to productivity.

Mr Dawe says it is vital that people should begin their working lives with a good foundation of skills and that these should be updated throughout their working lives.

Employers must devote sufficient resources to training. The conference, organized by the Institute of Training and Development (ITD) with the assistance of the MSC, will open with a speech by the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Norman Fowler.

He is expected to remind his audience that more than two-thirds of the people who will form the workforce of Britain in the year 2,000 have already started their working lives.

Mr Brian Nickson, professional development manager of the ITD, said many firms still had no training structure and had no plans for such a structure.

"The simple fact is that it will work much better with it", Mr Nickson said.

Mr John Morris, managing director of Performance Improvement Ltd, will argue that effective selling by companies depends on good management as well as good training.

Many people, even at the highest levels, fail to realize that sales force development goes further than a training course, he said.

"We need to ask questions about the product itself. Is it the right product for the market and is it being sold at the right price?"

"If management has failed in its market analysis, in its motivation of staff then the problem lies with management itself, not the sales force."

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

Liberace's popularity living on at auction

The popularity of Liberace is undimmed judging from the prices his possessions continue to fetch in Los Angeles.

On Sunday, the second of a four-day sale, his driving licence was snapped up for \$4,125 (£2,330) — \$4,000 more than its estimate. One of his pairs of cowboy boots, appliqued with his grand piano motif, fetched \$1,760 or £994 (estimate up to \$500).

Proceedings were punctuated by whoops of glee from one Robert Nye, an American piano dealer determined to steal the show. He whooped when he bought a concert grand piano for \$24,750 (£13,983) on Saturday, and he whooped when he secured a Norwegian silver fox coat for \$11,000 (£5,851) on Sunday — double its estimate.

The highest prices of all on Sunday, however, were for more traditional collectables, such as the Napoleon III bronze, bronze and patinated bronze-mounted "Sevres" porcelain table, which sold for twice its estimate at \$18,700 (£10,564).

The sale, in the Los Angeles Convention Center, is proving a huge social event. By the end of Sunday, the running total was standing at \$1.1 million.

Habsburg Feldman, the new Geneva auction house which started off with disastrous results last autumn, pressed on into the limelight last weekend, announcing its forthcoming sale of a collection of glass by the Frenchman, Galic. Comprising 108 items, and estimated at up to \$5 million in total, the sale will take place on June 27, after a worldwide tour.

Further good fortune came for Habsburg's at its watch and clock sale on Sunday, at which it achieved a world record total of 5.3 million Swiss francs (£2.2 million), with 80 per cent sold.

A sixteenth century Persian manuscript which failed to sell last time Sotheby's offered it, in 1985, fetched top price of £22,000 at Sotheby's Oriental Manuscript and Miniature sale yesterday. It sold for £8,000 below its lower estimate to an anonymous buyer.

Meissen china fetched the highest prices at Christie's Continental Ceramics sale in London. A saucer dish modelled with the shapes of swans fetched top price of £15,400, or double its estimate. The total for the day's sale was £391,407.

Paperwork cut frees police

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is supporting moves to free more police officers for the beat and make the best use of expanding resources.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, praised yesterday ways of relieving police of paperwork and the use of neighbourhood special constables to help cut crime.

He said that it cost £24,300 a year, including salary, uniforms, transport and work accommodation, to keep an officer in a provincial post.

"I do not doubt that police numbers will and must continue to increase", he said. However, pressure for expansion must be accompanied by imaginative thinking about the way resources are used.

Mr Hurd, speaking to a Police Foundation conference at Oxford, said he was impressed by an administrative support unit in the West Midlands which achieved "remarkable success" in diverting paperwork to civilians.

"The police service needs meticulous paperwork if it is to safeguard the innocent and convict the guilty. But the less paperwork falls on the beat officer the more crime he can prevent and detect."

At Wyke, Bradford, West Yorkshire, police were deploying neighbourhood special constables, recruited from within their own community, to support Neighbourhood Watch schemes and other local crime prevention initiatives, and to supplement community constables.

The Wyke initiative had led to cuts in several types of crime. A 75 per cent reduction in residential burglary, against a force increase of 3.1 per cent, was achieved in 1986 when the scheme was introduced.

Mr Hurd said factors which had been thought to be important in determining police effectiveness were shown by research not to be so. "Thus the time the police spend on an investigation and the speed

of their response are not directly related to success.

"And although more officers can clear up more crimes, the expense involved in increasing manpower, without any accompanying rethink of police strategies, would be out of all proportion to the increase in crimes solved.

Differences in effectiveness between police forces might depend on the way the police recorded clear-ups rather than differences in the number of officers they caught. They might depend also on the type of crime in an area.

Research suggested that, in order to achieve greater effectiveness, it was necessary to analyze local patterns of crimes and incidents.

Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday underlined his Tory leadership ambitions with a speech setting out his vision of a Britain in which all regions shared in the country's new prosperity.

Clearly challenging the Government's "hands off" approach, the former Cabinet minister set out a radical interventionist programme for channelling resources away from the South-east and into the revitalization of the provinces and their run-down urban areas.

Mr Heseltine, in self-imposed exile from the Government, sought to capitalize on widespread Tory unease over the so-called north-south divide, and on the growing fears of many Tory MPs representing rural southern seats that economic pressure for development could irrevocably destroy the countryside.

He also attacked the Government's apparent belief that the private sector alone could lead the revival of Britain's inner cities.

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challenge) without unacceptable damage to the countryside of southern England and the political balance of Britain itself", he said. The Channel tunnel and the third London airport would accelerate the concentration of resources in the South-east.

At the root of the problem was a tax system maintained by successive governments that had destroyed efficient provincial family businesses and encouraged the concentration of wealth by pension funds and public companies in the South-east.

Regional incentives amounted to some £200 million a year, but those were just "a sop to political consciences" compared with the billions of pounds accounted for by these hidden subsidies.

Entrepreneurial independence in the provinces had disappeared. Nor was there any evidence to suggest that this centralization led to greater efficiency or productivity. "We appear to be subsidizing a process that not only overheats the south and impoverishes the provinces but doesn't even work industrially or economically", he said.

Women do poorly in jobs battle

Men are twice as likely to get some white-collar council jobs in Oxford, in spite of women applicants outnumbering them by three to one.

A full review of the recruitment and training of women in the housing department of the city council has been ordered. Mr Richard Peacock, director of housing, said his department's shortcomings were highlighted in a report yesterday to the women's sub-committee of the council, but it also applied to other sections.

Of all applications for jobs in the housing department, 72 per cent were from women. Women have a 7 per cent chance of being appointed, but male applicants have a 14 per cent chance. The housing department has three men for every two women.

April 11 1988

Exchange rate policy queried

Reports of "recent disagreements in high places on exchange-rate policy" had caused confusion and uneasiness, Lord Ezra (SLD) said during questions.

He asked whether those disagreements had been resolved and whether, in the light of last week's reduction in interest rates, it was now the firm objective of government policy to ensure a stable exchange rate to enable Britain to counter the increasing amount of imports.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, a government Treasury spokesman, replied amid laughter: "I do not accept that there was a disagreement". Greater exchange-rate stability would bring advantages to the economy in general and to industry in particular.

"Exchange rate stability does not mean immobility, and adjustments are needed from time to time."

Young puts space case

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, repeatedly denied that he had misled the House of Lords over the deadline for a decision on whether to collaborate with Canada on the earth observation satellite, Radarsat.

He was called to the House of Lords by Lord Shackleton (Lab), a former Leader of the Lords, and chairman of the science and technology select committee, to explain the state of negotiations with Canada and whether there had been a deadline of March 31.

(Lord Young, at the end of a debate on space policy on March 30, told peers that the Government would respond to the Canadians in good time and that the time was "not tomorrow night". The Government had longer than that.)

Lord Young said there was no specific deadline. The decision on Radarsat had to be set within the context of decisions on other earth observation satellites, particularly the European Space Agency's Columbus polar-orbiting space platform, but the decision would be made very soon.

deliberately misleading the House, but it might have been better for the Secretary of State to have explained the situation in the debate on March 30.

"Is Lord Young just relying on the goodwill of the Canadians?"

Lord Young said that Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, had written to his opposite number in Canada, Mr Frank Oberle, on March 21.

"We are not, in a fit of enthusiasm, going to be rushed into making a decision."

Government would let it know by the middle of April.

All the indications pointed to the Canadians having accepted that decision. "That is exactly what I said to the House (on March 30) — that the time is not tomorrow night."

Lord Harman-Nicholls (C) said that the apparent delay in making a decision was giving the impression that there were vital differences within the Department of Trade and Industry. It meant that the decision would not have quite the same force as it might have had.

Lord Young said that he was constantly aware that the funds he spent were not his but the taxpayers. The estimated cost of the Columbus space project had come down. He suspected that this would not have come about if Mr Clarke had not queried it. There were three overlapping satellite projects and it was in the interests of the taxpayer that the Government look at them in an orderly manner. There was not the slightest bit of conflict in the Government.

Parliament

'Hideous' building criticized

If the Government were to move the Department of the Environment out of its Marsham Street building, it would enable "one of the most hideous structures in the capital" to be demolished, Lord St John of Fawley (C) said during questions about the future of County Hall, which is for sale after the abolition of the Greater London Council.

He suggested that the Earl of Caithness, Minister of State for the Environment, should persuade the Government to move out of Marsham Street.

The Earl of Caithness said he was sorry to hear his opinion of the building. "It was commissioned by the Royal Fine Art Commission when it was being built." (Laughter)

Lord St John of Fawley, who was appointed chairman of the commission in 1985, said it was now "under entirely new management."

Plea to save Scots grant aid rejected

An attempt to allow Scotland to continue to qualify for regional development grants when the Bill to abolish them comes into effect was rejected.

Under the Regional Development Grants (Termination) Bill, automatic grants of funds from central government to areas of high unemployment will be replaced by non-automatic grants for projects shown to be viable and of importance to the economy.

Lord Taylor of Gryfe (SDP), moving an amendment during the committee stage of the Bill to exclude Scotland from its provisions, said the amendment gave the Government an opportunity to isolate one part of the country from its proposals to see how they worked in practice.

Regional development grants had been successful. They had been an important aspect of regional policy for many years. In a report in February 1987, the Department of Trade and Industry had said that the scheme was an important factor in investment decisions. He had found in travelling the world to seek investment for Scotland that the existence of a grant was an important weapon.

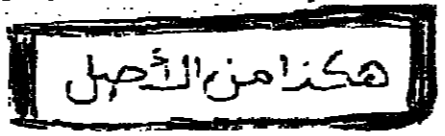
Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, explained that the abolition of the automatic grant did not mean that the Government was abandoning regional policy.

Economic recovery, with falling unemployment and rising investment, was not confined to any one part of the nation. The Government had strenuously resisted any attempts to make such distinctions.

It was wrong to have a scheme of automatic investment, subsidy that made no assessment of need or viability before paying with taxpayers' money. The Government would maintain a system of regional selective assistance for worthwhile projects.

West Germany had recently abandoned its scheme of automatic grants in favour of more selective grants. He would watch how the new system operated over the next few years and if it seemed not to be operating well, he would not hesitate to come back to the House.

The amendment was rejected by 94 votes to 62 and the committee stage completed.



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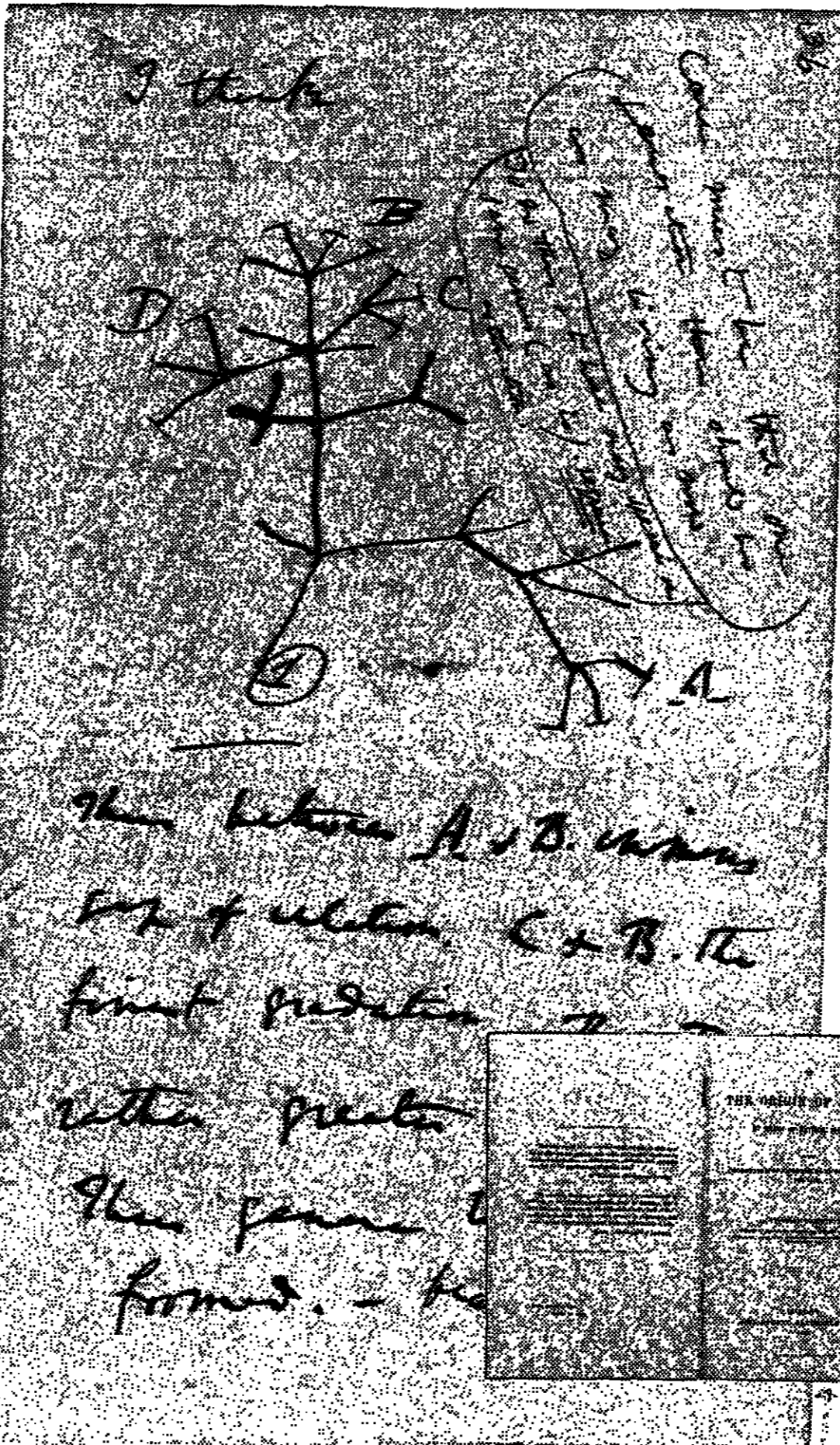


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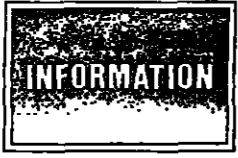
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WORLD ROUNDUP

US scholar took Lincoln papers

Boston (AP) - A scholar was convicted yesterday of transporting stolen historic documents, including letters from Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill, that belonged to the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Mount, a former Guggenheim Foundation fellow, insisted that the documents he sold to a Boston bookshop were his. Mount was not charged with theft, although Assistant US Attorney Martin Murphy said yesterday that he had taken the papers and removed identifying marks.

Panama plea for cash

Miami - Panama's cash-starved Government has appealed to Latin American nations for a supply of dollar notes to break the US stranglehold on its economy (Alan Tomlinson writes). The call comes amid growing concern among Panamanians that President Reagan's use of financial means to try to oust the country's military strongman, General Manuel Noriega, may inflict permanent damage.

The Finance Minister, Señor Ricaurte Vázquez, has written to the Latin American Economic System (Sela), into cash so that its banking system can reopen. Sela last month failed to respond to an earlier Panamanian request to form a temporary clearing house for its banks.

Steelworkers protest

Bonn - About 200 steel workers blocked a bridge over the Rhine at Düsseldorf during the morning rush hour yesterday to protest against the planned closure of a Krupp steel plant at Duisburg-Rheinhausen in the Ruhr, with the loss of 5,300 jobs (John England writes).

The men then staged a demonstration outside the North Rhine-Westphalia state Parliament, where Herr Johannes Rau, the Prime Minister, told a delegation that he was prepared to act as a mediator between the works council and management if his services would be accepted. Herr Rau denied reports that his Social Democratic Government had pressed for the early closure of the plant. The protests shut the plant, but the men are expected to return to work today.

UN goes to court

The Hague (Reuters) - The United Nations has urged the International Court of Justice in The Hague to intervene in a dispute over the attempt by the United States to close the PLO's United Nations mission. Mr Carl-August Fleishhauer, UN Under Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, yesterday asked the court to declare that the United States was obliged to accept arbitration in the dispute under its 1947 Headquarters Agreement with the UN.

A US anti-terrorism law passed by Congress in December called for the PLO mission to be closed. The US Justice Department filed a suit in the federal district court last month to close the mission after PLO officials refused to comply with the new law.

Mecca protest urged

Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, yesterday urged Iranian pilgrims to ignore Saudi pleas and demonstrate in Mecca on this year's Muslim pilgrimage "against infidels, America and Israel" (Hazhir Teimourian writes).

The Ayatollah said at his Tehran home that he hoped 150,000 Iranians would make the pilgrimage, starting at the beginning of July. This is three times the number of Iranians that the Saudi authorities have said they will allow in. Rioting involving Iranian pilgrims last year cost 402 lives.

Peking beauty stakes

Peking (Reuters) - Peking is planning to hold its first beauty contest since the communist takeover, the China Daily newspaper said yesterday. The Communist Party has always frowned on such events as decadent. Several hundred women are expected to compete for 10 titles in the televised "Girls of Youth and Beauty" contest scheduled for June. They will be judged as much on their knowledge, singing and dancing ability, and moral character as on beauty, the organizers said. If the event is a success there may be similar contests for young men and middle-aged people.

Mont St Michel rescue

Saving an island from a sea of mud

From Philip Jacobson, Mont St Michel

As the first waves of spring tourists converge on the world-famous attraction of Mont St Michel off the coast of Normandy, the French Government has authorized the next stage of a £25 million project to prevent the island from being left high and dry.

The rescue operation for a site that draws more than 1.5 million visitors to the region each year is designed to reverse the relentless silting up of the lovely bay that has already affected local tides so drastically that only one in every 10 now rises to cut off the rocky mount with its towering medieval abbey from the mainland at the other end of its narrow causeway.

The result is now all too visible. On an average day, Mont St Michel lies in the centre of an expansive stretch of bleak mud flats with a covering of vegetation on which flocks of sheep, destined to become the much sought after salt-lamb of the area, are grazing.

Another three or four years of receding waters, and France's biggest tourist attraction outside Paris, listed by Unesco as one of the treasures of the world, could well have lost contact with the sea for ever.

man and nature, this "new" arable land continues to expand literally almost daily. The 100-year-old causeway which was once lashed by great storms has risen so steadily on the undisturbed sediment around it that the main coach park (capacity 50,000 vehicles) is now below the old mooring rings.

Local farmers, not surprisingly, take a radically different view of things. The dykes and dams that cover the flat lands behind Mont St Michel are, they insist, vital for flood prevention. The extra grazing land produced is simply a bonus. In any case, they mutter, why should the handful of people doing very nicely from tourism for barely a third of the year impose their views on the mainland?

Caught between the two lobbies, the Government has opted for an elaborate and expensive scheme to create a network of reservoirs and tidal basins along the Couesnon river running to the west of the mount. The aim is to recreate the vast "flushing" movement the tides once had and to sweep great quantities of the sediment back to sea.

Extensive study of simulation models by French experts suggests that this can be achieved without the risk of disastrous flooding of the mainland or even sweeping away the reclaimed terrain. Preliminary work is to begin at the end of 1988 and will continue for about five years.

Neither the local farmers nor Mont St Michel's traders are happy with the outcome, though it is hard to see how else both could have been at least partially satisfied. One sensitive issue remains: what will happen to the causeway? As things stand, it will interfere significantly with the proposed ferret flow of water around the mount. Among suggestions being considered, with great enthusiasm on the seaward side, is a graceful wooden bridge or a brand new tunnel through which 21st-century visitors would glide on electric carriages to discover the marvels of the sacred island.

Hijack murder according to the clock

From Robert Fisk Larnaca

There was an awesome familiarity about it all in which only for a second - when the body was pushed from the doorway - could one grasp the terrible thing that was happening. One of the hijackers had warned earlier that there would be another killing, but had then chattered on to the control tower about fuel tonnage and aviation spirit for flight KU 422 like a trainee pilot at a flying school. It was thus all the more shocking when the door of the great Boeing swung open.

First we saw two legs dangling from the aircraft, then the trunk of some indistinguishable figure bending forward. Someone must have been pushing the dead man; perhaps he was heavy, for he dropped from the aircraft like a sack and bounced on the tarmac beneath. Murder had come according to the clock; trapped by their own expired deadline, framing their deed with the rhetoric of amateur lawyers, the gunmen on the Kuwaiti jet had participated again in their own grisly theatre.

The cameras captured the fall, the moment of impact, the body lying in a helpless, spread-out way, the man's galibeya robe blowing up above his bare knees in breeze so that he lay there like a woman.

somehow took part. The cameras stopped, the control tower officials stared through binoculars at the form below the aircraft. The hijackers maintained radio silence. It was all of 10 minutes before a Cypriot voice could be heard, coldly, almost indifferently questioning an unusual object on the runway - as if a vehicle had been inexpertly parked on the apron.

"We have seen something on the ground by the aircraft," the voice said innocently. "Can you give us any information?" There was only a brief pause. The hijackers must have been waiting for this moment. When a voice came back from the flight deck of the plane, it was hard, confident. The words were partly couched in pseudo-legal language. The 10 minutes' silence had obviously been employed by the hijackers in preparing their literary endeavour.

"Statement from hijackers of KU 422," he began unnecessarily. "We hereby announce to the Kuwaiti and Cypriot governments that we executed a Kuwaiti officer and this is due to the wish of the Cypriot Government which had decided to support the criminal countries against the people looking for freedom..." The hijackers enjoy the use of the word "herby" - they had used it several times already; the

voice carried no irony when it phrased the word "execute". The phrase "criminal countries" long ago entered the lexicon of Shia Muslim political philosophy in Beirut. The clichés made the statement all the more awful. Every few seconds, the voice would stop; "Go ahead," the control tower would urge. And the hijacker went on: "As broadcast by news agencies, we also reconfirm that the craft would be refuelled immediately before we take more dangerous steps."

In retrospect, it was probably inevitable. The voice had been growing harsher during the morning, arguing in an irritated nervous fashion about the method of transport which the PLO negotiators should use to reach the aircraft. He should walk to the plane from the control tower. He should drive half the way and then walk. In the end, Mr Malaz Abdo drove all the way.

The control tower had warned the hijackers that when they talked over the radio "others might listen". Indeed they might, not just the hundreds of journalists in the airport terminal with their VHF radios but the less public men across the Mediterranean in Lebanon who could listen to the drama live in their own more powerful sets in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

was sometimes hesitant, often unframed, frequently injected with artificial confidence. The first sign that something was snapping aboard the plane came after more requests for fuel at 10.10. "In the name of Allah, the most merciful," the voice began - and it became clear that this little speech had been written in advance - "we have already given the Cyprus Government and Kuwait officials our good intentions and enough time, but they think we are weak and hesitating".

Kuwait had refused to respond to their request. Cyprus would not refuel the aircraft. "We hereby announce that we insist on having the fuel within one hour only, otherwise there will be another reading."

agently. "This is the final extension - either after 30 minutes we receive the fuel or you receive the corpse."

"Thank you," the control tower replied automatically. The hijackers must have gone on discussing their forthcoming action, but they talked again about the tonnage of fuel. But then the aircraft door opened.

Israel expels eight Palestinian agitators

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday expelled eight Palestinians to Lebanon and is planning to expel another 12, the Army said.

The eight, five from the West Bank and three from the Gaza Strip, were described as having played a leading role in fomenting unrest in the Israeli occupied territories during the past four months.

Israel Radio reported that they were taken by helicopter to the northern edge of the Israeli-controlled security zone, put in taxis and sent into Lebanese territory. They were allowed to take only a couple of plastic bags with some personal items.

Among the eight deported was Abdel Aziz Odeh, aged 38, who is regarded by Israeli security authorities as spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad Palestinian guerrilla movement. He is a lecturer at Gaza's Islamic University, where his arrest in November sparked student riots.

The others deported are: Furayji Ahmed, Khalil Khayri, aged 39, vice-chairman of the Engineers' Union in the Gaza Strip, who served several jail terms for activity in Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, the mainstream wing of the PLO; Adil Bashir Nafa Hamad, aged 27, of Kalandia refugee

camp near Ramallah, West Bank, who was sentenced in 1983 for incitement and hostile propaganda and scheduled then for deportation. He founded the local section of the Fatah youth movement Shabiba, outlawed by Israel last month; Muhammad Abu Samara, aged 26, from Gaza, a student at the Islamic University, who

Afu, aged 31, from Jenin in the West Bank, a student at an-Najah University in Nablus, who was serving a five-year jail sentence for membership of the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Jamal Shatti Hindi, aged 30, from Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, an ex-prisoner and student leader accused of

Lawyers protest about camp

Jerusalem (Reuters) - Israeli and Palestinian lawyers protested jointly yesterday at conditions at an Israeli detention camp for Palestinians in the Negev desert and the jailing without trial of three Palestinian lawyers. They said that some 3,000 detainees had been deprived of water and denied access to lawyers.

has been arrested and sentenced four times for anti-Israeli activities.

Khalil Kukka, aged 39, of Gaza city, a teacher employed by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, who served as imam of the mosque in the Shati refugee camp.

Hasan Ghanim Muhammad Abu Sakra, aged 27, from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, who is said by Israel to be a Muslim fundamentalist who incited the public to attack the Israeli Army and Jews; Abdel-Nasser Abu Aziz

being leader of the Shabiba youth movement at an-Najah University.

The 12 Palestinians against whom the Army issued expulsion orders yesterday include six from the West Bank village of Beita allegedly involved in Wednesday's bloody confrontation with the group of Israeli settlers in the village.

They have the right to appeal against their expulsion, first to a standing army committee and if that upholds the orders served on them, to the Supreme Court in Jerusalem.

The Supreme Court yesterday lifted the interim injunction it had issued against demolition of any further houses in Beita. But it ordered that villagers be given 48 hours' notice and an opportunity to appeal against any demolition order before it was carried out.

Violence wanes in East Jerusalem but shopkeepers deny strike is crumbling

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

There have been growing signs in recent weeks that, in Arab East Jerusalem at least, the four-month-old Palestinian uprising is beginning to run out of steam.

Few incidents are now reported, encouraging Israel's over-extended police force to announce that it is reducing significantly its presence both in East Jerusalem and in the surrounding villages.

But while there has clearly been a fall-off in violent protest, the commercial strike in the city appears to be holding firm. Since December shopkeepers throughout the Arab half of the city have been observing meticulously a strike ordered by the leaders of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which allows them to open for business only between 9am and noon.

come down throughout the city. It is almost as though someone has issued a typhoon warning. Within half an hour, the normally bustling Saladin Road, the main commercial thoroughfare in the Arab half of the city, as well as the usually teeming alleys of the Old City, are all but deserted.

The Israelis have lately been trying to convey the impression that the strike may be starting to crumble. The usually reliable Army radio station, Galzi Zahal, reported on Tuesday, for example, that shops in the Old City remained open throughout the day - a claim that merchants in the souk deny categorically.

They were certainly shut shortly after noon the next day, when there was no sign whatever of the Passover crowds that the Army radio claimed were beginning to

through back to the Old City. A few groups of Christian pilgrims, in the Holy Land for Easter, were seen wandering a little disconsolately through the shuttered alleyways.

There was also some petty commerce going on from trays or boxes in front of the shuttered stores - mostly fruit and vegetables or imported chocolate bars.

But there was no sign that the merchants are beginning to tire, as claimed by Mr Amir Heshin, adviser on Arab affairs to the Mayor, Mr Teddy Koldik, in an interview with the Army radio intended to back up his report.

"It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to call 3,500 merchants out on a strike that is going to cripple them," Mr Heshin said, "especially when they perceive that it is they, the shopkeepers on the pavement, who are being made to



An Arab boy standing outside the mosque in Beit Ummar in the West Bank. Villagers claim that all its windows were smashed by Israeli soldiers using a marble-shooting cannon.

Cuomo wipes his name from Democratic slate

From Charles Bremner, New York

Governor Mario Cuomo of New York yesterday tried to lift the long shadow he has cast over the confused Democratic presidential field by stating for the first time that he would not accept a draft to become candidate, even if the party asked him.

Mr Cuomo, who is widely seen as his party's most eligible potential president, spoke out after a weekend of confusion over his plans as the real candidates fought to impress the big Jewish electorate in his home state a week ahead of the primary election here.

The Rev Jesse Jackson, for example, broke new ground by saying that he would refuse to meet Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader.

"It's been such a story, such a large irrelevance," said Mr Cuomo in his strongest denial that he had been positioning himself to be drafted if no strong candidate emerges from the long primary race. Talk of a Cuomo draft intensified after the victory of Mr Jackson in the Michigan caucuses last month.

Asked by The New York

Times if he would refuse to accept a draft, Mr Cuomo replied: "Yes. You're absolutely correct. That's accurate. Now I hope there are no questions left about my role." The Governor also ruled out the possibility of his running as vice-presidential candidate.

The Cuomo statement was good news for Mr Michael Dukakis, the Governor of Massachusetts, although an endorsement would have been a lot more welcome. Despite his continuing failure to bridge what the media call

"the passion gap" - his inability to inspire enthusiasm - Mr Dukakis has reassessed himself as campaign front-runner, according to opinion polls and the political pundits.

Mr Jackson, whose passion is his big asset, fixed his position on Mr Arafat after local Jewish leaders and Mayor Edward Koch made it clear that he had not been forgiven his anti-Jewish remarks in 1984 and the 1979 meeting at which he embraced the PLO chief.

He said that if elected President, he would not nego-

tiate with Mr Arafat and that the PLO should accept Israel's right to exist. Mr Koch, the most vocal Democratic critic of the black leader, immediately accused him of "fudging" his views "to convince people that they shouldn't be afraid of his positions on Israel".

Mr Albert Gore, the distant underdog from Tennessee, is using the Jackson-Arafat embrace to help him woo the Jewish vote, which usually accounts for 25 per cent of the Democratic turnout in the state.

Malta's knights break with past to elect a Scots leader

From Roger Boyes, Rome

A Briton has been elected Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta for the first time since the days of the Crusaders.

The new leader of the Order - which has many of the trappings of an independent state - is a former schoolmaster, Mr Andrew Bertie, aged 59.

substantial minority of the 36 electors, wanted a fellow countryman. And there was support, too, for the Grand Prior of Bohemia.

Mr Bertie was backed by the United States - including the multi-millionaire Mr Peter Grace, who sits on the electoral council - and others concerned that the Order had become too lax and too concerned with ceremonies.

Insiders say that Mr Bertie will bring in more "professed knights" - that is those who adhere to monastic vows - to give the Order a stricter discipline. But at the same time he is said to be open to expanding the Order's influence overseas and to

establishing new diplomatic missions overseas.

Mr Bertie, a relative of the Earl of Lindsay and Abingdon and a member of one of the longest established Catholic families in Britain, used to teach modern languages at a Benedictine school in Worth. When his work for the Order (such as organizing pilgrimages) became too much, he resigned and moved to Malta. The Nationalist Party Government in Malta - which has invited the Order back to the island - is overjoyed.

Mr Bertie was educated at Ampleforth and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read modern

history. He is multilingual (German, French, Spanish, Russian and Tibetan, to name just a few), and was able to win the confidence of many of the Order's Italian, Spanish and German staff.

Vatican sources say that the Pope, himself a foreigner running a primarily Italian bureaucracy, has high hopes that he will be able to revive some of the priestly aspects of the sprawling charity organization. The Italian Knights are already speaking of Mr Bertie as a hardliner and fear a radical shake-up.

Mr Bertie is the first British Grand Master of the Order since Hugh de Revel, who held the post in

the 13th Century. The Sovereign Military Order runs more than 200 hospitals in about 90 countries - a throwback to the days when it cared for sick Christian pilgrims and Crusaders in the Holy Land. Out of these protective functions grew other military and defensive tasks, such as the fortification of Valletta in Malta. Now the Order issues its own passports, coins, stamps and car number plates, and has embassies in more than 50 countries.

Both the President of Italy, Signor Francesco Cossiga, and the Pope welcomed the election in statements yesterday. The formal swearing-in ceremony will be today.

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Pakistan Army blamed for storing weapons too close to city

Zia tries to stem outrage at arms blast

From Edward Gorman, Islamabad

President Zia moved quickly yesterday to head off growing public outrage over the disaster at an ammunition dump on the edge of Islamabad which sent thousands of rockets and shells into residential areas, killing 93 people.

He arrived here in the early hours of yesterday morning from the Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait. After touring the disaster area at Faisalabad, just four miles from the centre of Islamabad, he told a packed press conference at the Presidential Palace that the Government and people of Pakistan should be rightly praised for the fortitude and spirit they had shown in the face of adversity.

"In the last 12 years I have never seen the people so united and appreciative of the efforts made by the Government," he said. "If a nation can display unity in a crisis it is rightly to be called a nation."

He said that 93 people had been killed on Sunday and 1,100 had been injured. Just over half of the injured had been discharged after treatment in hospital. Thirty-three people had died in central Islamabad, including Mr Khan Abbasia, a member of the National Assembly, whose car was hit by a rocket. At the ammunition dump, seven soldiers had been killed and 32 had been injured.

President Zia said that an inquiry would report within 10 days. Compensation would be paid to the families of those killed or seriously injured. He

also said that he would set aside an additional 50 million rupees (£1.6 million) to supplement compensation payments, which would also cover damage to property.

While displaying his characteristic "political sense in a crisis," the President left many questions unanswered. Although given two opportunities, he refused to confirm or deny reports that the dump at the Army camp had been a holding store for American-supplied ammunition and weapons destined for the Afghan Mujahideen.

He added that it was still not clear whether the explosion had been the result of an accident, sabotage or simple negligence.

The president's praise for the Army and the Government will do little to assuage his critics. An editorial in the English-language *Muslim* newspaper — traditionally a moderately dissenting voice — summed up the mood of growing anger and outrage.

It criticized the Army roundly for allowing an ammunition dump to be sited so close to populated areas, adding that the strict rules for the movement and storage of explosives "were evidently observed in their breach".

There was also criticism of the media and the civil administration for being lamentably slow in reacting as the scale of the disaster became apparent.

President Najibullah of Afghanistan sent a message of "deep grief and sorrow" to President Zia and called the



Motorcycle riders try to comfort a woman hurt by exploding ammunition in Islamabad.

At the scene of the disaster yesterday, thousands of unexploded shells still littered residential areas and fields close to the camp. Army demolition teams including, significantly, a US Navy bomb disposal unit, appeared to have made little headway in efforts to defuse and remove

rockets and bombs. Many residents had left for safety elsewhere, but there had still been no effective attempt to cordon off the worst affected areas. It was common to see families in their houses with live shells just yards away.

Fires at the main ammunition dump appeared to have been extinguished, but the situation clearly remains far

from stable, with the possibility of further explosions not yet discounted.

At Rawalpindi general hospital, half a mile from the camp, staff said they had treated 450 patients who had returned home. A further 140 people had been admitted, 62 of whom had serious operations. Twenty-two people died at the hospital.

Seoul dam will counter North's 'water bomb'

From Gavin Bell, Taebak Mountains, South Korea

At the end of a rough, dusty mountain road by the North Han River in central Korea, in a remote valley ringed by armed camps, a bizarre construction is in progress.

It is a massive dam, and its designers hope it will never be used. Its sole purpose is to counter the destructive potential of a similar project 12 miles to the north, across the Demilitarized Zone in North Korea.

The perceived threat is from a North Korean plan to dam the upper reaches of the river in the Kumgangsan (Diamond) Mountains and create a reservoir of several billion metric tons of water. If that dam were ever breached — by accident or design — South Korea fears it would send a gigantic tidal wave roaring through the Han River basin and into Seoul, 80 miles away, with the devastating impact of a nuclear explosion.

A government booklet entitled *Water Bomb over Seoul* describes the effects of such a catastrophe. Five smaller dams downriver would be washed away, the capital would be inundated within 12 hours. Olympic stadia would be submerged and the lives of 15 million people imperilled.

Of more concern to defence chiefs, the torrent would also destroy key frontline installations and isolate three military corps north of the river.

Even in its early stages of construction, South Korea says, the dam could hold enough water to flood the main competition venues and athletes' village for the Seoul Olympics in September.

The booklet concludes: "It seems more than obvious the dam has been planned as a means of psychological pressure on the South in peacetime, and as a formidable weapon in wartime."

Korean workers are labouring around the clock to erect a riverine Maginot Line. The vast pyramid of compressed granite will reach an initial height of 260 ft by next month, and may be increased to over 700 ft if necessary — almost twice the height of the Aswan High Dam in Egypt.

Mr Lee Hee Sung, the chief engineer, says that the North Koreans could build a temporary dam in a month which would threaten the Olympics.

"Our priority is to protect the Games, and this will be achieved with completion of the first phase." Thereafter, the height of South Korea's Peace Dam would be increased to match progress on the Kumgangsan Dam.

Pyeonggiang says that its project, announced two years ago, involves four dams and a network of tunnels to divert water from the North Han and Imjin rivers to a power plant with an 810,000-kilowatt capacity near the eastern seaport of Wonsan. It says the Kumgangsan Dam will be considerably smaller than Seoul claims, and dismisses any thought of sinister intent as bellicose rhetoric.

Intelligence reports indicate that site preparation has begun at Kumgangsan, and work is well advanced on a 30-mile diversion tunnel heading north towards Wonsan.

Western diplomats are not convinced that the dam was designed as a weapon, since it

makes no military sense to flood a potential invasion route.

"The North's motives are not clear," a senior diplomat said. "Whether they designed it as a water weapon will probably never be known, and the question is academic now the Peace Dam is in place."

Given the uncertainty, one might argue that the Korean conflict has risen to new heights of absurdity, with the Peace Dam a monument to paranoia. But Pyongyang's unpredictable regime has done nothing to inspire confidence by digging invasion tunnels beneath the DMZ and destroying a Korean Air jet with 115 people on board.

Its project ignores conventions on the sharing of international watercourses, and will reduce supplies to the South. It also threatens long-term ecological damage in the Taebak Mountains, a region of haunting beauty, and silt further downriver.

Irrespective of Pyongyang's intentions, South Korea is gravely concerned about the dam collapsing through human error or natural disaster. Its site is in the most earthquake-prone area of the Han River basin, on relatively weak limestone. Doubts are expressed about whether North Korea has the level of technical expertise and workmanship required.

Real or imagined, the threat has been enough to attract \$50 million (about £26.5 million) in a fund-raising campaign for the Peace Dam.

Mr Lee concludes: "We believe there is a high probability of dam failure at Kumgangsan, and nobody can say they will not breach it deliberately. If there is even one chance in a million of that dam bursting, we must construct a defensive barrier. It would be suicidal not to."



Tokyo looks to Europe for renewed friendship

Japan is determined to build up its relations with Western Europe as a central feature of its international policy. This was what I was told time and again throughout a week of discussions in Tokyo with politicians, officials and others outside government.

It gives particular point to the visit that Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, will be paying to London and other European capitals next month.

The Western community depends, so the line goes, on the triangular relationship between the United States, Western Europe and Japan. But the weak link in the triangle up to now has been between Europe and Japan.

Whether it is best to look at Japan's foreign policy in trilateral terms like this is questionable. It leaves out of account its relations with its Asian neighbours, which must always be critical.

Warning signs in early INF talks

But this is how the advance to Europe is presented in Tokyo, and the policy itself is a development of some importance. I am not suggesting that the links with Europe can ever rival the American connection, which shows no sign of weakening. But for the first time Japan is realising that it needs more than the United States.

In the first place, Japanese security interests will, so it is believed, be preserved better by taking a fuller part in the general Western defence dialogue than by concentrating exclusively on the American alliance. Indeed, the early negotiations over INF provided a warning of how easily



Geoffrey Smith

that could lead to Japanese interests being overlooked.

The final treaty, eliminating all medium-range missiles, satisfied Japan. But before that the United States had been prepared to accept that, while all INF should be removed from Europe, the Soviet Union should be allowed to keep a hundred missiles in Asia.

Japanese protests put a stop to that idea. But the episode was a reminder that Japanese and European security interests do not always coincide.

That is true of disarmament. It also applies when the United States is deciding how to apportion its troops and resources between Europe and Asia. So the Japanese feel that the more they are regarded as part of the Western defence community the more their voice is likely to be heard.

Second, they believe that Europe will be of increasing importance to them economically. That is partly because they expect the coming of the single European market in 1992 to provide an economic stimulus, and partly because they fear that it may discriminate more against those out-

side. Better, then, to have close links.

But the advance to Europe is also part of a wider trend. As Japan's economic power grows, so it is moving slowly and tentatively towards a broader political role. It is not quite sure yet how to do so. Throughout my week in Tokyo became increasingly aware of the sharp contrast between Japan's economic confidence and its political diffidence.

It is conscious of being set apart from other nations.

Although it relies so heavily on the United States, it suspects that the Americans are really closer to Europe. Although it is an Asian country, it knows that any assertion of power would send shock waves of alarm throughout the region.

So there is an eagerness to reassure. Mr Takujiro Hamada, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, emphasized to me that Japan would

Consciousness of being set apart

not assume a global role and was already committed not to be a big military power.

Yet the more widely Japan extends its direct investment round the world — which is a key element of its new economic strategy — the more extensive will its political interests be.

So the quiet, piecemeal, limited extension of Japan's military capacity can be expected to continue. But it will all be done in as low a key as possible.

What we are seeing now are the first uncertain gropings as Japan stretches out beyond the political laager in which it has been willingly confined since the Second World War.

Cocaine charges bring Paris intellectuals to Sagan's side

There is only one place for the whole of Paris to be seen these days — on the petition supporting the author and playwright Françoise Sagan as she prepares to face charges of possessing cocaine.

The list of names published in the current issue of *Globe* magazine, compulsory reading for the capital's intellectual jet-set, ranges from the immensely distinguished French writer Marguerite Duras through prominent entertainers, actors and directors — Juliette Gréco, Jane Birkin, Jean-Claude Brialy — to social ever-presents like the model Ines de la Fressange and practising intellectuals (it is a full-time profession here) like Régis Debray.

Beneath what they clearly considered to be a daring and provocative headline demanding *Incidences avec Sagan* (ie, charge us too), these luminaries defiantly admitted

to smoking a bit of dope, indulging in the occasional snort of cocaine. Mind you, they are all anti-drug, all very down on drug dealers: the point is that they think Miss Sagan is being victimized, the only superstar to face prosecution in an affair which apparently involves some 30 other prominent people.

Miss Sagan thinks so too, attributing her problems to a right-wing conspiracy to do her down because she is an ardent supporter of M François Mitterrand in the coming presidential election. It seems that back in 1986, when she was openly backing the Socialist election cause, her apartment had been raided by the drug squad (nothing was found). "I thought it was just coincidence, but twice is too much," she said.

According to the organizer of the petition, a considerable personality called Pierre Ber-

gé, who is president of Yves Saint-Laurent and also contributes a column to *Globe* on "Politics and Style", Miss Sagan is a deeply sensitive and fragile human being.

This may not fit everybody's image of a talented lady who has never tried to conceal her bruising encounters with life in the shape of alcohol, gambling, the French tax authorities and more besides.

Since Miss Sagan herself (also a contributor to *Globe*) had nothing to do with preparation of the petition, and does not even know some of the signatories, she can hardly be blamed for that.

There is an irresistible footnote. When news of the petition broke in the press here, another 50 personalities rang M Bergé to complain that they had not been given a chance to get their own names in print. Social death, don't you see.

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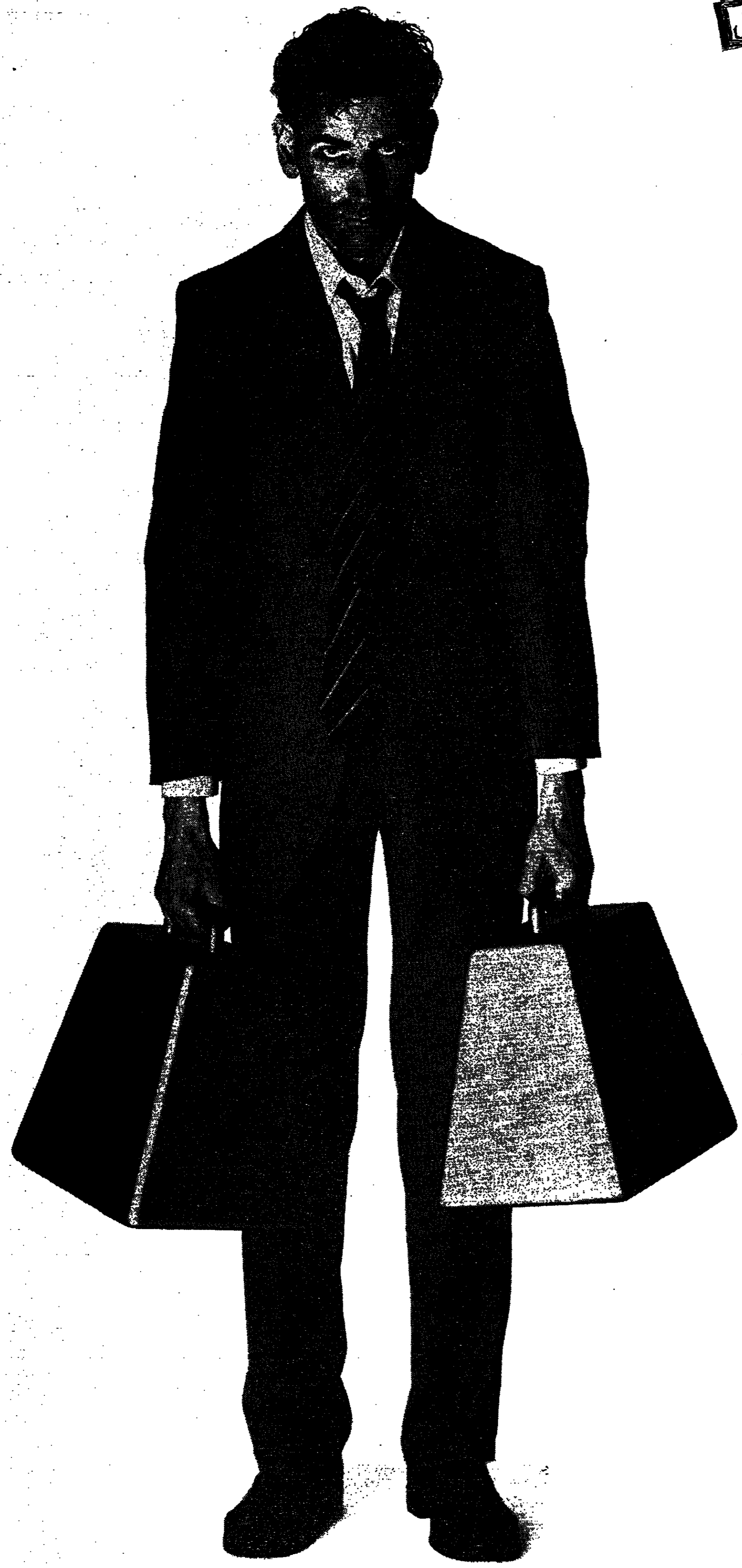
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you need to), and then it's just a short step to the Gatwick Express for the 30 minute non-stop trip to the airport.

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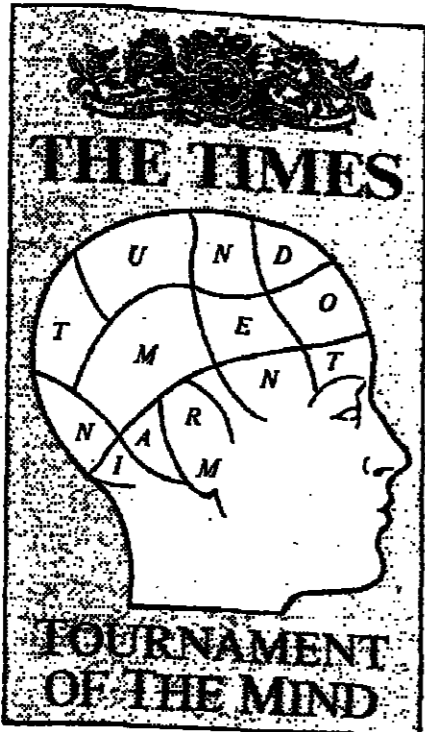
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Tournament of the Mind



● Round Two of the individual final of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind for the 124 top-scoring entrants, one of whom will win £5,000 and become *The Times* Mind of the Year

● Even those who have not reached the finals can enjoy the challenge of these questions every day this week. In the event of a tie, further questions will be set until an outright winner is found

Mrs Victoria Black, of Sherwood in Nottinghamshire, freely admits to having sought a qualified second opinion on her way to the finals of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind — her husband is a doctor. At the end of each day, having taken on average two hours to complete the questions, she would go to him for corroboration. "He didn't always agree," she says, "but whenever he raised a query, it was always with good reason.

Mrs Black, who is 33, also points to two other factors which just might have helped her reach this stage of the tournament: first, she is a chemistry teacher at a local comprehensive school, and hence familiar with the business of problem-solving; and second, she is just finishing her maternity leave to look after her five-month-old daughter. "When I'd got the baby down I could concentrate my mind on the problems," she says.

"It often made quite a welcome change. There's no doubt that my maths grounding stood me in good stead. Now that I've got to the finals, I'd say that the questions which strike me as having got much harder are the general knowledge ones. They've definitely stepped up another gear. Oh yes, there was one other thing that I think helped me. I do *The Times* crossword every day."

INDIVIDUAL FINAL — ROUND TWO

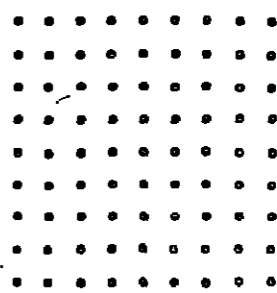
1 LOGIC

In the diagram you will see two planets in orbit around their sun, each moving clockwise. The outer planet takes 8 years to complete an orbit while the inner one takes two years. At the moment, the planets are in line with each other and their sun. Imagine that in this solar system, each year is exactly 365 days long and that it is now exactly midnight on December 31, 1899. By some freak, the months are exactly the same length in days as ours and they have the same names. Can you tell us when the planets will first form a 90° angle with their sun? For example, planet A could be at 12 o'clock and planet B at three o'clock:



4 MISCELLANEOUS

Here is a nine by nine array of dots. How many different but perfect squares of any size can be found in the illustration in such a way that each corner of each square lies on a dot?



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Name the male and female cities who stirred up the sea with a spear, creating islands from the drops.
2. Which artist created *Light-Space Modulators*?
3. Which yellow to reddish-brown material is a common source of the rare earths?
4. What type of socialism worked through industrial action and wished to substitute a federation of functional economic units for the state.
5. Which German author wrote the romantic fairytale *Der blonde Eckbert*?

2 VERBAL

The groups of letters which follow are jumbled words. You must unscramble the words and discover the most obvious one out.

TALONBA PODOLLE CHILDIC PACHAAL

3 MATHS

Replace the three question marks with three mathematical symbols to make the equation work:
 $(4\frac{1}{2} ? 17\frac{1}{2}) ? 4\frac{3}{4} ? \frac{3}{4} = 17\frac{1}{2}$

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip Howard

Horse sense

By Aarvak (the Norse horse that draws the sun's chariot driven by the maiden Sol) and Xanthos (Achilles' wonderful talking horse), your horse is a strange creature. This must be because man rode into history and civilization on its back. Wynkyn de Worde gave the 15 points of a good horse in 1496: *A good horse sholde have three proprietes of a man, three of a woman, three of a foxe, three of a hare, and three of an asse. Of a man, Bolde, prowde, and hardye. Of a woman, Fayre-breasted, faire of haire, and easy to move. Of a foxe, A fair taylle, short eers, with a good trotte. Of a hare, A grate eye, a dry head, a well rennyng. Of an asse, A bygge chynn, a flat legges, and a good hooffe.*

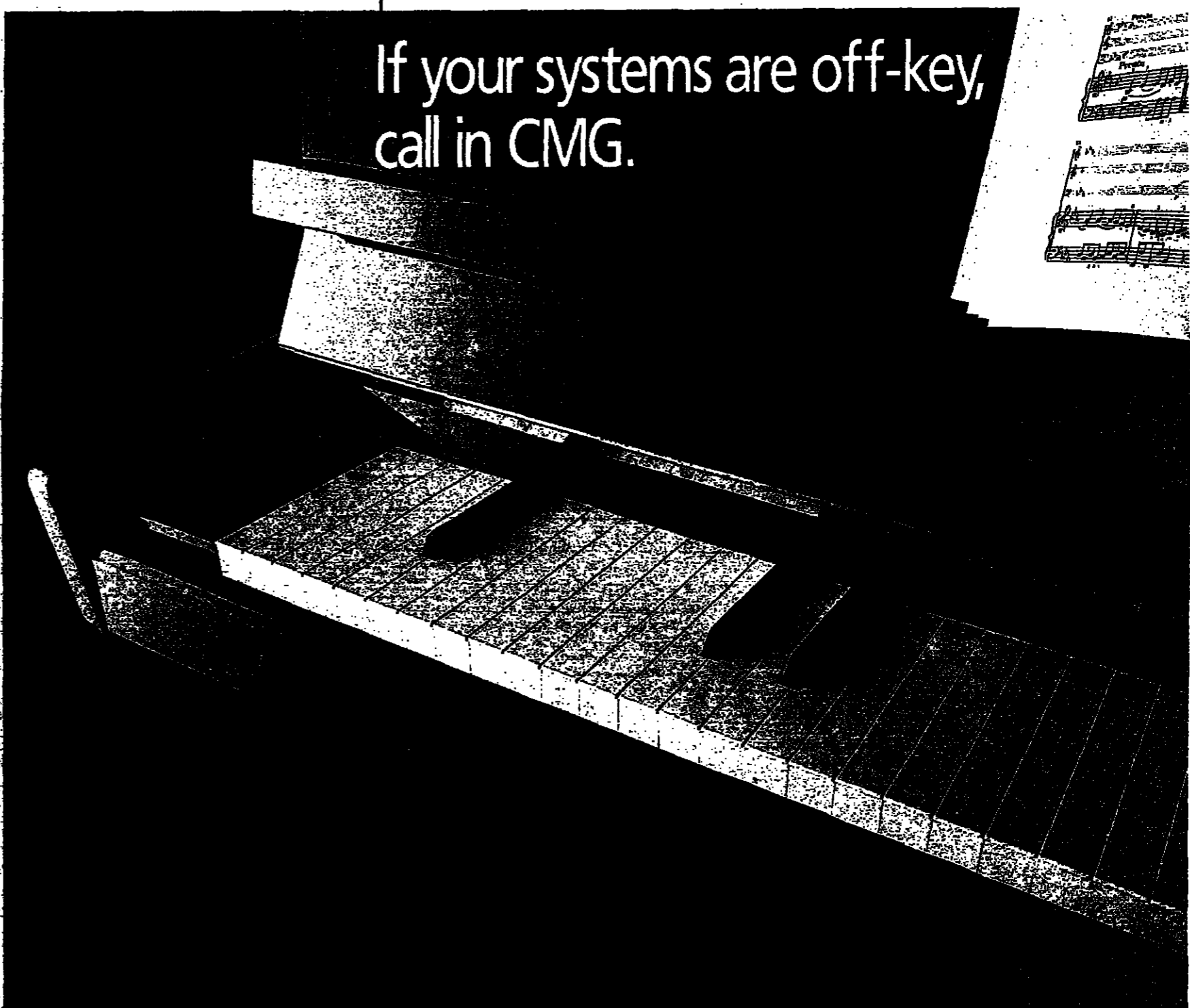
But we have it from the horse's mouth (looking at its incisors is a more accurate way of judging a horse's age than believing a horse coper) that it is strange linguistically as well as equinely. We should not be surprised that the horse is a prolific sire of human proverbs and sayings, from the superiority of the grey mare to the equal virtue of a nod and a wink to a blind horse, and the three things that are not to be trusted, a cow's horn, a dog's tooth, and a horse's hoof. For millenniums the horse was man's vehicle to power and status.

Nobody knows the origin of the Common Germanic word. It was originally neuter, like deer, sheep, and swine, and applicable to both male and female. It was first written down in English as *hors* in a Psalter of about 825 AD. In Anglo-Saxon the nominative singular and plural were identical, but the plural *horsas* appeared early in the 13th century. The original uninflected form survives, just about, in "horse soldiers" for cavalry. The Common Indo-European root word has diversified more widely than usual: Old British Runic *eh*, Old Saxon *ehu*, Old Norse *jör*, Gothic *aiwha*, Greek *hippos* as in Philip, Sanskrit *arjyas*, Lithuanian *arva*, Old Irish *ech*, Welsh *ep*. In attributive use horse

often denotes coarseness, roughness, or large size, as in a horse laugh, horse leech, horse mackerel, horse mint, horse-radish, horseplay, and in the verb: "Stop horsing around this minute, boys; matron is coming". The horse chestnut is a puzzle. Explanations include the suggestion that it was used to cure horses of the cough and that when a leaf stalk is pulled off, it presents a miniature of a horse's hock and foot. I don't believe either derivation: but I have nothing better to offer.

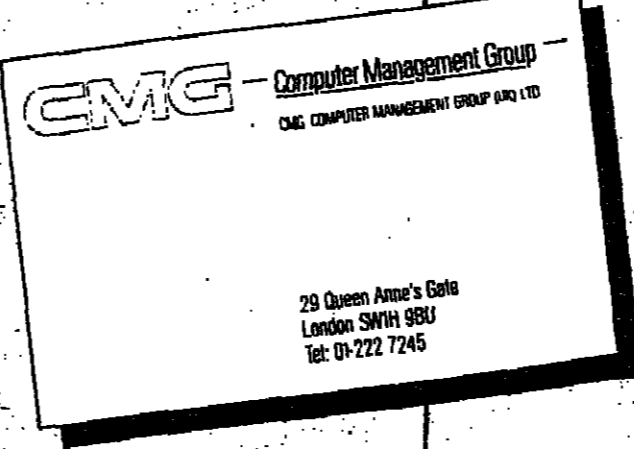
There is similar insipidated fog about the origin of the horse latitudes, the belt of calm and light winds around 30° North and South. Some explain that these latitudes are called horse because they were generally fatal to horses and cattle being shipped to America. Others say that sailing ships were sometimes obliged to jettison their cargoes when becalmed in the horse latitudes because of shortage of water for the animals. A "Dead horse" was the term used by seamen to describe the period of work on board ship for which they had been paid in advance when signing on. They used to celebrate having worked off the dead horse by

parading an effigy of a horse stuffed with straw around the decks to the song: "Old man, your horse must die." Nautical etymologists say that the proverb to flog a dead horse refers to expecting a ship's crew while they are working off the dead horse. These ingenious ancient mariners connect the horse latitudes with this custom. In the older days of sail it took about two months out of England to win clear of the horse latitudes, and that was where the dead horse of straw was hoisted to the yardarm and cut adrift to fall into the sea. Others derive the horse latitudes from the Spanish *El Golfo de las Yeguas*, the Mares' Sea, because of its boisterous nature with the trade wind zone, *El Golfo de las Danzas*. In my opinion you can tell all such derivations to the horse marines.



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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1537

ACROSS

- 1 Rip in pieces (4,2)
- 5 Bad-tempered (6)
- 8 Make mistake (3)
- 9 Biblical punisher (6)
- 10 Brief (6)
- 11 Threesome (4)
- 12 Continuous (8)
- 14 Swaggering (1,3)
- 17 Put up with (8)
- 19 Top-notch people (1,1,2)
- 21 Ruined (6)
- 23 Jonah (6)
- 24 Morale (3)
- 25 Danish moneys (6)
- 26 Extraordinary beauty (6)

DOWN

- 2 Early wheat (5)
- 3 Turned up (nose) (9)
- 4 Trouble (7)
- 5 Leaf fragment (5)
- 6 Also (3)
- 7 In combination (7)
- 13 Unaware (9)
- 15 Huge lie (7)
- 16 "The Seagull" playwright (7)
- 18 Change (5)
- 20 Film picture (5)
- 22 Homiety (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1536
 ACROSS: 1 Scorer 5 Piss 8 Globe 9 License 11 Lake Eric
 12 Sub 15 Clingfilm 18 Lull 19 Stuffing 22 Dauphin 23 Felon
 24 Team 25 Shrewd
 DOWN: 2 Crook 3 Rue 4 Rolling Stones 5 Pick 6 Sanctum
 7 Agile 10 Elza 12 Evil 14 Tiff 15 Culture 16 Clad 17 Agony
 20 In-law 21 Sham 23 For

TIMES DIARY

RICHARD COBB

Why do people go on so about the poor old Masons, about them being in the police and so on? It is a strange twist of history, nearly 50 years after they were proscribed by Vichy's anti-Masonic and anti-Jewish legislation of 1940. Then it was the German Nazis, the French *maurassiens* and the French Catholic hierarchy who were in the habit of referring darkly to a Judaeo-Masonic conspiracy.

My grandfather was a Mason, quite high up I think in the Colchester Lodge. I have his Masonic medals and triangular sashes. He was an excellent man, staunchly Liberal, very charitable, and anything but a conspirator. I have always thought of Masons as harmless people who make a point of looking after their own: good Masonic schools and hospitals. Now, for some reason, it has become fashionable to vilify these victims of fascism and clericalism of the 1930s and 1940s. I hope someone important stands up for them. No one did in France in the summer of 1940.

I am not interested in the weather, provided it is not hot and sunny. At this time of year I watch with dread the coming of spring, because that brings nearer the threat of summer and the horrible months of July and August (if only they could be abolished and the calendar reduced to 10 months!).

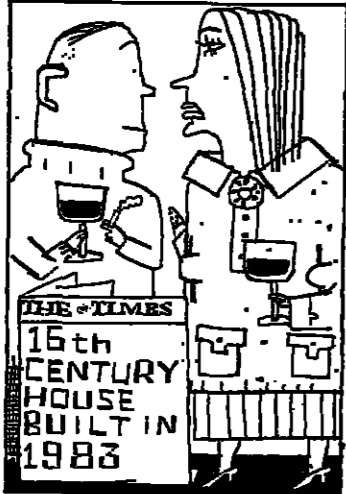
Next year, up and down the country, the bicentenary of the French Revolution will be celebrated — if that is the right word; there will at least, I think, be plenty of food and drink to help it down. There are to be conferences in Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Manchester and Birmingham, though I don't think Cambridge has anything in its mind. Most of these conferences are jumping the gun, being held in March or April, in order to leave the field clear for the *grande finale*, fireworks and all, in Paris on July 14. The chances are that there will be there but hardly anyone around in the French capital to celebrate it. The French, Parisians included, are not easily disturbed in their holiday habits.

Why should we be celebrating the bicentenary of someone else's revolution? A simple answer would be that there is quite a lot of money in it and that it would be both foolish and ungrateful not to accept inducements so readily provided. But there is more to it than mere *reconnaissance du ventre*, though I for one feel that that is a very powerful motivation. If you are asked to a party, accept. Eating and drinking have a universal appeal and easily overcome any ideological divisions. There will be books in it, too, as a more solid dessert to follow the pleasures of the feast itself. But, for England at least, there is indeed something to celebrate.

Faced with what was happening in Paris and in many garrison towns in northern France in June/July 1789, the British government of the day rejoiced. As one elite regiment after another mutinied, often after their officers had been disarmed and lynched, French military power seemed to be disintegrating. Pitt's very sensible reaction was to sit aside while France tore itself apart. Anything that weakened France militarily could only be to our advantage.

Perhaps Pitt's university should be joining in, too. Christ's College would be the place to hold it.

BARRY FANTONI



'Must have used our plumber'

I was in Paris on July 14, 1939, for the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution: *le cent-cinquantième*, a bit of a mouthful, and which soon went rather badly wrong. I stood on the Quai du Louvre and watched the huge military parade go thundering past. Enormous black tanks, each marked on its turret with hearts, spades, clubs or diamonds (a Tunbridge Wells touch, I thought, and one that induced *le Canard* to comment that "France had put all her cards on the table") made the whole road shake. I don't know where they were nine months later.

What came out of the 150th was Jean Renoir's wonderful film about the march of the Marseillais to Paris, and Georges Lefebvre's beautifully concise *Quatre Vingts*, a book that was to be one of the first victims of the Vichy government, which ordered its withdrawal in July 1940.

At a fairly recent *bi-centenaire*, that of the Edict of Fontainebleau, better known as the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, of 1685, I was invited to a splendid lunch party at the Maison Française d'Oxford given in honour of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain — those of the Channel Islands, Canada and the USA were also represented. At the beginning of the lunch we were assured by our kind host that all the wine, both red and white, that was to be served to us would be *du vin protestant*. I think we were all mightily encouraged by an assurance that offered so happy a combination of conviction with pleasure.

What sort of wine should be drunk over here in March and April? In 1795 the former terrorists became known as *huguenots de sang*. They had in fact never been anything of the sort. They had not been that bloodthirsty. They had drunk wine, much of it of poor quality: vin de Paris, Suresnes, Clamart, Choisy. There is no need to imitate them next year. Wine is apolitical, indeed the best form of *cobaltation*. As for food, for an entrée I would suggest a *lête de veau*, as served at those annual dinners held by staunch Republicans, on January 21, to celebrate the execution of Louis XVI. Or should that dish wait till 1993?

The author was formerly Professor of Modern History at Oxford University.

The possible use of the SAS, one of the world's most efficient counter-terrorist organizations, to storm the hijacked Kuwait Airways jet has been carefully weighed in Whitehall since the plane landed at Larnaca airport on Friday — though they would be sent in only at the specific request of both the Kuwaiti and Cyprus governments.

From the start it was hoped that exhaustion might lead the hijackers to accept a negotiated solution which contained no Kuwait concessions on key issues. But contingency plans have been drawn up on the assumption that further killings would necessitate the use of force.

After the first cold-blooded killing on Saturday, the chances grew that Kuwait and Cyprus would seek British help. With sovereign military bases in Cyprus, Britain could send men and equipment to the island unopposed. Cyprus is a Commonwealth country and Britain has a close relationship with Kuwait. So, in the event of a request for help, the British government could reasonably be expected to say "yes".

It became clear yesterday that Mrs Thatcher decided early on that she would not refuse if a request came from both governments. But it cannot have been

Andrew McEwen on the chances of an SAS rescue attack at Larnaca

To storm or not to storm?

An easy decision. British intervention could cost the lives of Terry Waite and John McCarthy, the British hostages held in Beirut by groups believed to be sympathetic to the hijackers' aims. Britain could increasingly be portrayed as hostile to the spread of Shia extremism in the Middle East. Critics at home could argue that it would be an unwarranted use of military muscle, given that no direct British interest has been at stake since the British passengers were released on Thursday, and would expose British aircraft and interests to attack.

Mrs Thatcher will have taken all these factors into account, but they will have been outweighed by the same consideration that led her to allow President Reagan to use US airbases in Britain for the bombing of Tripoli two years ago: those who take a firm line with terrorists and their sponsors may pay a short-term price (two British

hostages were murdered in Lebanon immediately after the Libya bombing), but will be treated with greater respect in future.

The British public has always supported her when she took decisions that other countries interpreted as aggressive: the despatch of the task force to recapture the Falklands in 1982; the diplomatic break with Libya after the murder of Yvonne Fletcher in 1984 and the break with Syria in 1986 after Nezar Hindawi's attempt to blow up an El Al airliner at Heathrow.

More than any other Western leader, Mrs Thatcher has persuaded her own voters that it pays to be tough. She showed herself willing to gamble on that reaction last month when the SAS shot dead three IRA terrorists before they could plant a car bomb in Gibraltar.

She views the al-Sabah ruling family of Kuwait as a kindred spirit for its refusal to make concessions, in spite of a similar

hijacking in 1984, a car-bomb attempt on the Emir's life in 1985 and a series of industrial sabotage operations.

As Mrs Thatcher never tires of saying, every concession to terrorism encourages further attacks. It is because she has established that point that there has been so little public agitation to do a deal with Iran and Syria to free Terry Waite and John McCarthy. The French, West German and US governments have all been under far greater pressure from their electorates over their own hostages, and all have made damaging concessions. None more so than Washington, with its bungled attempt to trade hostages for weapons.

One might wonder why Mr George Vassiliou, the new president of Cyprus, elected partly with communist support, should turn to Britain. The Greek Cypriots are, after all, noted for military ruthlessness and might

be expected to storm the plane themselves. But a small country like Cyprus could not be expected to maintain a force as specialized as the SAS.

The use of troops not specifically trained for the task could lead to a bloodbath. This was shown in 1985 when an Egyptian attack on a hijacked aircraft at Malta left 60 dead and, a year later, when Pakistani special forces were too late to prevent 16 people being killed and 78 injured aboard a Pan American 747 at Karachi airport.

If a foreign unit is used at Larnaca, it has to be the SAS. Israeli troops match their ruthless efficiency, but Kuwait could never seek their help. The US anti-terrorist Delta forces are also highly trained but neither Kuwait nor Cyprus would wish to involve a superpower. West Germany's GSG/9 has directly relevant experience, but Bonn would be unlikely to welcome a request for help.

The most celebrated SAS rescue came in May 1980, when 20 men burst into the Iranian embassy in London after terrorists had shot dead two hostages. They rescued 19 other hostages and killed four of the gunmen.

But they have been involved in storming only one aircraft. That was in October 1977 when two SAS men helped GSG/9 to rescue 86 hostages on board a hijacked Lufthansa jet at Mogadishu, in Somalia.

The GSG/9 squad blasted open the aircraft's doors with dynamite and hurled six stun grenades, supplied by the SAS, into the cabin. The grenades momentarily immobilized the hijackers without seriously harming the passengers, and the Germans opened fire, killing one terrorist instantly, mortally wounding two and seriously wounding a fourth. Three members of the Basler-Weinberg committed suicide in their cells in West Germany on hearing the news.

A five-man SAS group was sent to RAF Akrotiri to stand by after the hijacking of a TWA jet from Athens to Beirut in June 1985, but was not used.

After the murder of a second hostage at Larnaca, the SAS could have a rescue operation all their own.

T.E. Utley

Giving the IRA the initiative

There are (such is the message I am bidden to bring back from Ulster where I have just spent a week) the stirrings of a new political initiative in that province. I am bound to say that the message does not instill the hearts of those of us who have grown old in the business of analysing Ulster's ills.

How many political initiatives have we lived through! What is more, all of them have been "new". Most of them, it is true, have been variants on a single theme — the obstinate wish of the British government so to the political attitudes of Ulster men as to make possible the sort of settlement, based on compromise and good sense, which, so the Government believes, would have been achieved long ago if the province were only inhabited by Englishmen.

The details of the proposed settlement do not vary much from initiative to initiative (though did go a bit further in the same direction). There should be a devolved government and parliament in the six counties; Unionists must make the supreme sacrifice of agreeing to share the executive power with nationalists and of being willing to accept some sort of institutional arrangement for close co-operation with the Republic.

In return, nationalists must make the supreme sacrifice of giving absolutely unreserved support to the security forces and of abandoning all links, however tenuous and sporadic, with republican terrorists. By these means, the IRA will be isolated, alienated from its American sponsors and unequivocally condemned in the court of world opinion.

As for the differences between these various government initiatives, they have been semantic. Sometimes devolution has been called "rolling devolution", sometimes "power sharing", sometimes "responsibility sharing". Let no one doubt, however, that among the Ulster politicians, who are so often accused

of being rigid, there has never been any position so stubbornly entrenched as that occupied by successive British governments. Even the Prime Minister, most uncharacteristically, has never seemed to have a single original thought about Ulster. Civil servants in other departments of state get their ears boxed when they confront her with hallowed clichés, the Northern Ireland Office seems to be exempt from this treatment. It, by contrast, is allowed to submerge her constantly under an avalanche of banality.

But wait! I am told by those who are enthusiastic for it that this current initiative, now painfully stirring into life, is really new in one immensely significant respect: it springs not from Whitehall but from the people of Ulster themselves. They are tired of the fight; they are tired of their established political leaders; a new generation is arising which wants a genuinely new initiative.

There are indeed several bodies in the province which are working to that end. A notable example is The Campaign for a Devolved Parliament, which has been lobbying me. Its theory runs thus: the nationalists must now be asked to give up the Anglo-Irish Agreement in its present form because it is fundamentally unacceptable to all brands of Unionists. In return for this supreme sacrifice, the Unionists must admit the other side to a permanent share in executive government, and it is whispered, not even exclude Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, from such participation, provided, of course, that Sinn Fein says it proposes to use the ballot box rather than the bullet in future.

It is, moreover, whispered that one of the merits of this arrangement would be that the IRA might offer a truce. Well, if it suited the IRA, so it would. What is new, about the new initiative, is that it does not concentrate simply on mobilizing the support of good peaceable middle-class people



(though there are plenty of them involved in it), but that it tries to get together what have hitherto been bad men.

Whoever said that the Irish have "long memories"? The sad truth is that there is nothing new about this kind of initiative either. It was very much the theme of Merlyn Rees's tenure of the Northern Ireland office. In his case it actually yielded two truces for the IRA — one from December 1974 to January 1975, the other from February 1975 to April 1975. They were disastrous in their consequences. They involved conceding to the IRA

something approaching belligerent status, and even setting up arrangements for co-operation between the UK army and the IRA in the enforcement of the armistices.

I believe that if the campaign for a devolved parliament were to succeed in all its immediate objectives, the following consequences would ensue: Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, would be given a unique opportunity to disrupt the political life of the province in the interest of the IRA; I believe that a "strong devolved parliament" in Ulster, particularly a par-

liament which, as the campaign seems to want, would have substantial responsibility for security, would, in the first instance encourage all those in Britain who are looking for opportunities to get Ulster off their backs. Later on, of course, the British would get tired of subsidizing a place which they did not control and simply being kept in reserve to provide military power to be called in whenever things over there got too much out of hand. In the end, the result would probably be an independent Ulster governed by an exasperated Prot-

estant community, and no paper constitutional guarantees would suffice to protect the minority.

No! The British government must decide whether it wants to govern Ulster or to abandon Ulster. By all means let it hold plebiscites continually (the thing that, it seems, peculiarly disinclines to do) in order to test the wishes of the people, but so long as its mandate survives it must discharge it. By all means let it attempt to revive local government in the province, but local government concerned with sewers not principles.

It breaks my heart to denounce this well-intentioned initiative, whose supporters include quite a number of my best friends. There is for example my dear friend Peter McLachlan. He is the son of a Presbyterian clergyman, and he is a man of unspeakable honour, unfathomable generosity, high intellect and infinite, jolly optimism. He has been behind almost every initiative. Once he became a "peace woman" when "peace women" were supposed to be the thing. Militant Protestants throw rotten eggs at him and kick him; but, come the next initiative, there he is in the forefront bearing Christian benevolence and singing hymns. It is a pain, but a duty, to say that I hope that his latest endeavour will fail; for, if it were to succeed, evil men would take advantage of him.

By contrast, I had the pleasure of travelling on an aeroplane with Ian Paisley with whom I have never had a conversation since I had the cheek to contest his constituency in February 1978. He told one of our travelling companions that he and I had been so mutually friendly that it was hard to believe that we were political opponents. That was not my precise impression at the time, but I am glad that he and I am resolved to accept it retrospectively. Certainly, he will never tolerate this latest kind of initiative nonsense, and I shall be entirely behind him, as indeed I was, in another sense, in the 1974 poll.

Commentary • TONY BLAIR

Climate of violence

Gary was walking home around midnight after an evening out in Spenny Moor, Co Durham. He never saw his attackers clearly. They jumped on him from behind, stove in his face with billiard cues and left him bloody and unconscious. The object of the crime was not mercenary: no money was taken. It was an initiation rite carried out by youths to prove their fitness for membership of a local gang.

In another village only a few miles away, a different gang forced a car, driven by an elderly couple, to stop and smashed its windows and bonnet.

A week ago two gangs met at Ferryhill Working Men's Club. They wrecked the concert hall and sporadic fighting then broke out around the village. A dozen people were taken to hospital. The concert hall is now closed, losing the club thousands of pounds in revenue and spoiling a good evening out for the law abiding majority.

These events are significant, not because they are exceptional, but because they are unexceptional. It becomes increasingly plain that organized gang violence is to be found in many towns and villages in the area and there is every reason to suppose it is replicated in most parts of the country.

It is also, both in its nature and extent, a new phenomenon. The gangs have names: "The Casual Force", "The New Breed" etc. elaborate codes of conduct and they are well organized. (One Darlington gang even has a "contingency fund" to pay legal expenses of members charged by the police).

This is more than mere hooliganism. Indeed, in a wider context, the term "football hooli-

ganism" is misleading. It is nothing to do with football or football supporters. The match is just the venue chosen for the disorder. But outside the football ground, unreported, similar scenes occur in town centres each Friday and Saturday night up and down the country.

Neither is the word "hooligan" appropriate. It suggests random rowdiness — young men with too much beer and too little brain. This violence is done with premeditated malice and intent.

Of course, gang violence has been a feature of society since time immemorial. But it has tended to be confined to the big cities. Elsewhere violence has traditionally been after the pubs have closed, between rival groups of youths out to give each other "a good hiding", as an old regular in the working men's club explained. But when asked whether he and his friends would search out an old pensioner and beat him up, he looked outraged. "We weren't bloody sick".

This new lawlessness cannot be blamed on deprivation of a material sort. Many of the youths involved are still at school or employed and, in any case, unemployment usually acts as a depressant turning a person inwards, not as a stimulus to group activity.

Not will it be remedied only by stiffer penalties, though some sentences for violent offences seem absurdly light. The main difficulty is catching and identifying the criminals, not in sentencing them.

In any event, that deals only with the symptoms. To perceive the underlying causes for this violence is more exacting and more troubling in its message. But it surely has something to do

with the decline in the notion of "community", of the idea that we owe obligations to our neighbours and our society as well as ourselves. It is instructive that the police, the representatives of law enforcement in the community, are often the victims of violence. The days when the arrival of even one policeman would break up a fight are long gone.

The members of the gangs, devoid of the discipline that comes from recognizing that the value of oneself is in some way related to the value given to others, prove their "worth", that they are "somebody", by inflicting fear upon someone else. It is a profound and corrosive form of alienation.

But none of us should escape responsibility. For we, collectively, determine the values of our society. When a sense of community is strong, that adds its own special pressure against anti-social behaviour. Instead, we have learnt to tolerate what should not be tolerated. A victim can be assaulted violently in a public place and ignored by others present.

We are living in a society where increasingly the term is itself becoming meaningless, where social responsibility and the duties that come with it are seen simply as a drag anchor on our private pleasure.

For the better off, their wealth may increase, but they will pay an ever larger price for their security from the world outside. The victims — the young, the poor and the elderly — will be those that cannot or will not, hide away. This is Britain 1988 style and it is time we woke up to it.

The author is Labour MP for Sedgfield.

SCIENCE REPORT

Out in force

The two-year search for a new force akin to gravity has just been given a new and complicating twist by four researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico. Writing in the US journal *Physical Review Letters*, they give reasons for believing that there are two new forces to be found.

The search for a new force was set off in 1986 by a report that inconsistencies in data on the gravitational attraction between different materials, originally gathered in the 1920s, could be reconciled if there were a previously unrecognized force between separate pieces of matter (see Science Report, February 22).

This "fifth" force — so called in acknowledgement of the four known forces (gravity, electromagnetism and two nuclear forces) — is supposed to act between all material objects, as gravity does.

At the outset, the fifth force was estimated to differ from gravity in repelling rather than attracting pairs of material objects, and in declining in strength more rapidly with increasing distance than Newton's prescription requires.

Especially intriguing was the evidence that the strength of the force depends on the chemical composition of the materials concerned because their atomic nuclei are differently constituted.

The excitement of the search was dampened somewhat last year by reports of two careful experiments designed to measure the new



force directly. One, with an apparatus suspended on the face of the Palisades cliff, on the west bank of the Hudson River opposite Manhattan, gave a positive result. But the other, near a hillside at Seattle, Washington, was taken to imply that there is no fifth force.

The Los Alamos team — Mark Ander, T. Goldman, Richard Hughes and Michael Nieto — urge researchers not to give up the search. Their belief in two new forces is based on their expectation of what the theory of matter will be like when there has been some success in welding together Einstein's theory of gravitation and the quantum theory.

They argue that each of the two new forces would separately imply a correction to Newton's gravity on a distance-scale of tens of miles,

but that the two corrections would normally cancel each other out on a much smaller scale, perhaps between 100 and 1,000 yards.

One inference from this argument is that neither of the two experiments should have given a positive result. Anders says the Palisades' positive measurement may have been the result of a layer of dense igneous rock at its base.

Although the search for a fifth force may seem one of the esoteric pursuits that give science a bad name, success would help to resolve two important issues.

First, there is a long-standing discrepancy between geophysical measurements of gravitational attraction (in mineshafts, for example) and those made in the laboratory, with serious practical consequences. Second, the nature of a fifth (or sixth) force could help to distinguish between the many theories of matter now proliferating.

Two sets of measurements may soon tell whether the new forces exist. One is an attempt to measure the downward pull of the Earth's gravity in the 7,000ft borehole drilled in the Greenland icecap.

The other is a plan at the European high-energy physics laboratory (CERN) at Geneva to measure the gravitational pull on the particle of matter called the anti-proton, for which the two forces described by Ander and his colleagues should cancel.

JOHN MADDIX

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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OUT OF BENEFIT

It is not hard to see why governments attempt reform of social security so seldom. The changes which take effect from today were originally conceived as a radical overhaul of the system. It was intended that this would save significant sums of public spending and substantially reduce dependency on the State.

respects. But the level of the benefits is a different matter from the structure which is what the reform was supposed primarily to be about.

VOTE AGAINST MILITANT

The Civil and Public Services Association was once described as the Khmer Rouge of Whitehall - not by Mr Norman Tebbit or the Institute of Directors but by one of its own employees. Another friendly critic, Mr David Warburton of the GMB general union, likened the bitter in-fighting between the different political groups in Britain's biggest Civil Service union to the streets of Beirut.

Militant does not see its mistakes for what they are. It certainly does not learn from them. At a special pay conference last December the executive won activist backing for a pay strategy of selective strike action followed by a national stoppage in favour of a new flat rate of £125 per week, a minimum wage of £134, and much else besides.

MURDERING THE LANGUAGE

London policemen who get lost in the murk of their own prose are to be given a guiding hand by Scotland Yard. A research team has devised a so-called "Fog Index," based on the number of polysyllabic words and the length, as one might say, of sentencings. The aim is to raise the standard of constables' English.

policemen's English was the legal requirement for precision. When compared with local government officials, with income tax inspectors and solicitors, their traditional clarity was admirable.

Putting BBC's house in order

From Mr Ian McIntyre
Sir, Your comparison (leading article, April 9) of the BBC's Deputy Director General with the prophet Jeremiah struck me as far-fetched. Mr Birt is unlikely, in his time at the BBC, to witness the modern equivalent of the destruction of Nineveh, and rough as the corporation has become these days, it is improbable that there will be an attempt to starve him to death in an old well.

Chinese view of conditions in Tibet

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
Sir, I have read your leading article of April 6 concerning Tibet. I appreciate the measured approach in your description of the Chinese Government's position on Tibet. However, there are some serious misrepresentations of the facts in that article and, in fairness to your readers, I feel I must set the record straight.

Safety measure for hijackings

From the Deputy Director of the Institute for the Study of Terrorism
Sir, In most major terrorist air hijackings over the past 20 years the terrorists have used information obtained from passengers' passports to select their victims for murder, torture and extortion. Has no one in airline security thought of collecting all passengers' passports on departure and storing them during the flight in a secure compartment inaccessible from the cabin?

ON THIS DAY
APRIL 12 1951
President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) was never one to shirk an awkward task. In dismissing General MacArthur (1880-1964) he angered many Americans although his advisers had urged the dismissal.

The right to know

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information
Sir, John Birt has called for a Freedom of Information Act in Britain. Your recent reports on the King's Cross inquiry illustrate again why it is needed. A constant theme, in this and other tragedies, is that safety defects had been recognised but not corrected - a failure made possible because the warnings given were not made public.

Students' unions

From Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent (Conservative), and Mr Morris McWhirter
Sir, The vice-chancellor of City University and the president of the university students' union suggest (April 5) that making membership of the National Union of Students (NUS) voluntary would be a "substantial erosion of freedom".

TV labour inquiry

From the General Secretary of Equity
Sir, I find it disturbing that a first leader, a page 1 story, and a major feature article in one issue of your newspaper (March 30) can deal extensively with matters directly relating to our association without either the facts being checked with us or our being invited to comment.

The Rylands sale

From Mr John Stephens
Sir, Whatever its morality, the legality, at least, of the proposed (Rylands Library) sale (letters, March 24; April 2, 7, 9) is clear. What is less clear is whether those responsible have any real understanding of what they are doing.

Touché?

From Mr Bernard Kaukas
Sir, The French Admiral who could hardly contain his glee when he heard that a British shipyard had managed to build part of a submarine upside down (report, April 8) needs to be reminded of the Maginot Line: perfectly constructed at enormous cost, but quite useless in performance.

Language of flowers

From Mr Roy Fuller
Sir, Apropos Miss Fennell's interesting letter today (April 1), Wordsworth noticed that daffodils nodded (see the note on "I wandered lonely as a cloud", dictated to Isabella Fenwick in 1843), but I think neither he nor his sister can have observed that daffodils in bud shook their heads.

GEN. MacARTHUR RELIEVED OF ALL COMMANDS

President Truman announced yesterday that General MacArthur has been relieved of his commands in the Far East. ... Mr Truman said, "The cause of world peace is more important than any individual."

PERSONAL MESSAGE

To General MacArthur himself the President sent the following message: "I deeply regret that it becomes my duty as President and Commander-in-Chief of the United States military forces to replace you as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers; Commander-in-Chief, Far East; and Commanding General, United States Army, Far East. My reasons for your replacement will be made public concurrently with the delivery to you of the foregoing order, and are contained in the next following message."

PERSONAL MESSAGE

The next following message referred to was the text of the public announcement: "It has been obvious for a long time that there could be no solution to the Administration's problems so long as General MacArthur remained as Supreme Commander, but nobody underestimated the difficulties which Mr Truman would have to face if he took the decision to remove him. He met those difficulties this morning when the Republicans kept to the defence of their idol..."

'Business as usual' for Ronson on the eve of court appearance

Heron unveils £100m plan

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

On the eve of today's court appearance on charges relating to the Guinness affair, an ebullient Mr Gerald Ronson, the chairman of Heron International, unveiled a £100 million expansion plan to turn Heron into Britain's largest independent petrol retailer, creating 1,500 new jobs in the process.

He said: "The sign outside Heron is 'Business As Usual'. All our businesses have been expanded in the last 12 months, and the group has more on today both at home and abroad than we have had for a long time.

"We are not cutting back elsewhere to build up the petrol chain. That will be paid for partly out of our cash flow, and our banks are also backing us with a £50 million five-year loan. There are more things in the Heron pipeline including two big town-centre developments to be announced soon, as well as some major housebuilding schemes."

Mr Ronson said he had never been tempted to take the Heron group to a flotation. And he was scornful of ill-founded rumours that he might want to sell up Heron and live abroad. "I don't know what Heron would be worth if it went on the market. I don't know what I'm worth. You don't spend your time sitting

down and calculating whether you are worth threepence or two bob - there's a business there needing to be run and you get on with it."

Mr Ronson was not talking about the Guinness case - "for obvious reasons". Today, with other defendants in the case, he appears on remand before Bow Street magistrates in London.

"I am going in with my head held high," he said. "Everybody is being very supportive. It has affected none of our relationships with suppliers, banks and so on. It gives us at Heron a very good feeling."

He and his family had been backed up to the hilt, went on Mr Ronson. "It's the same whether it is business colleagues or those I meet in my charity work - I'm glad to say I still find time for that community work in a 90-hour working week. I must have done a few right things in my time to get this sort of support."

The petrol chain expansion, which will increase the number of Heron outlets from the present 60 to 200 over the next three years, should see the service stations by March 1991 accounting for a fifth of group turnover, which currently is £1.2 billion a year.

Heron, which pioneered self-service at petrol stations in the mid-1960s, has developed 400 petrol outlets over

the years but sold many of them on to other operators. Now that a combination of petrol sales, convenience shopping and services such as car washes are proving commercially rewarding, Heron is going over to this formula, plus heavyweight branding with the petrol being sold under the Heron label.

The forecourt shops will carry cigarettes, confectionery, hot drinks and fast foods, with the addition of refrigerated items at most units. It is planned to add newspapers and magazines. Discussions with banks are going on to introduce cash dispensers.

The pricing policy is to put Heron in the mid-range between the big operators such as the main oil companies and cut-price outlets. A computerized system for dealing with credit cards - accounting for 30 per cent of petrol sales - should help the Heron chain pump 200 million gallons of petrol a year, or twice the national average per outlet. The aim is to take 3 per cent of the petrol sales market, which would put Heron among the top 10 operators.

Mr Ronson forecast: "Heron's Big H will become a familiar landmark. We are building a business on service and high standards, because through service comes customer satisfaction and loyalty - and that leads to profit."



High hopes: Gerald Ronson at the Savoy in London yesterday, where he revealed his plans (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Executive Editor David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1439.8 (+20.4)
FT-SE 100 1810.5 (+30.8)

Bargains 25715 (31521)

USM (Datastream) 147.05 (+1.78)

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8565 (-0.0200)

W German mark 3.1291 (-0.0093)

Trade-weighted 77.8 (-0.5)

Scottish TV growth slowing

Scottish Television, which recently made its first diversification outside the television industry by buying Pauline Hyde & Associates, the employment consultancy, for £6.5 million, says that its progress in 1987 fell short of the dynamic growth of recent years.

Pretax profit edged forward from £8.07 million to £8.95 million.

The final dividend is raised from 12p to 13.5p a share, making 17p (15p) for the year.

Cannon ahead

Cannon Street Investments, the USM-quoted industrial holding company, made pretax profits in 1987 of £12.7 million against just £3.1 million in the previous year. The total dividend was raised from 4p to 6p. *Tempus, page 26*

Wardle higher

Wardle Stores, the maker of speciality plastic products, increased pretax profits from £5.6 million to £7.7 million in the six months to end-February. The interim dividend was raised by a third to 3.325p. *Tempus, page 26*

Veteran dies

Nicosia (Cyprus) - Mr Ezekias Pappas, the veteran general secretary of the Communist party, Akei, has died a heart attack, aged 80.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for Stock Market, Dow Jones, Nikkei Average, Hang Seng, Amsterdams Gen, Frankfurt, Commerzbank, Brussels, Paris CAC, Zurich SKA Gen, London, FT 30 Share, FT 100, FT Gold Mines, FT Fixed Interest, FT Govt Secs, Recent Issues, Closing prices.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table with columns for RISES: Christies Intl, Cater Allen, Gerard Nelson, Union Discount, Body Shop, Greatham House, GBE, BSE, Daejan, BP, Cador Group, Breakthrough, BAT, Reuters, Rank Org, Shell, Southend Prop; FALLS: Schroders, Access, London & Man, Closing prices.

INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for London: Bank Base, 3-month interbank, 3-month eligible bills, buying rate; US: Prime Rate, Federal Funds, 3-month Treasury Bills, 30-year bonds; CURRENCY: London, New York, DM, Sfr, FF, Yen, ECU.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns for GOLD: London Fixing, AM, New York, COMEX.

NORTH SEA OIL

Table with columns for Roundup, Stock Market, Tempus, City Diary, Consent, Traded Opts, Wall Street, Share Prices, Commodities, Foreign Exch, Money Markets, Unit Trusts, USM Prices.

Farmers agree to meet BAT

By Alison Eadie

Farmers Group, the Los Angeles insurance company being stalked by BAT Industries, has had a surprise change of heart and agreed to meet BAT representatives.

Farmers is still investigating the possibility of a leveraged buyout.

In a letter to Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman, Mr Leo Denlea, chairman and chief executive of Farmers, asked BAT to state unequivocally whether it was prepared

Germany's growth 'above 2%'

By Our Financial Editor
West Germany's economy is set to grow by more than 2 per cent this year, Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the finance minister, said before going to tomorrow's Group of Seven talks in Washington.

That would be an advance on the official government forecast of 1.5 to 2 per cent growth, which had previously been regarded by private analysts as too optimistic.

Many private forecasts at the start of the year suggested growth would be a maximum of 1.5 per cent.

Herr Stoltenberg said, however, that output had been higher than expected in the first quarter. Economic developments in most leading industrial countries had been better than feared after the October stock market crash.

"Now, primarily because of strong growth of private consumption, but also because of positive developments in orders for manufactured goods in the first quarter of 1988, there is a growth trend of more than 2 per cent," he said.

He added that West German growth was being aided by tax cuts of almost DM14 billion (£4.5 billion) introduced at the start of 1988, and by the stronger US dollar.

'Banks offer poor and unreliable transfer service'

Money barriers across Europe

From Jonathan Brande, Brussels
Sending money abroad is an unnecessarily slow, costly and sometimes dicey business which does little credit to the banks and is an "embarrassment" in the run up to the EEC's 1992 deadline for a single European market in financial services.

According to a report by the European Consumers Unions Bureau (EUCB), bank customers get a poor and unreliable service in most European countries and fare no better when they pay extra for faster delivery.

Banks are accused of not listening to their clients' instructions, making it difficult to establish the cost of a transaction in advance and sometimes charging both the person sending the money and the payee, even where the remitter has clearly agreed to bear the costs.

Mr Tony Venables, the director of the bureau, said it is often cheaper for the small amounts to be sent abroad by

Oil prices rise by \$1 on Opec's firm stand

By Graham Searjeant

Crude oil prices rose by more than \$1 per barrel as surprised dealers reacted to Opec's unexpected determination to control production and to heightened political tension between Gulf states.

After a surge in prices in Tokyo, oil gained a further 30 cents in European trading to take Brent crude for June to a peak of \$16.60 a barrel, compared with a closing US price of \$14.54 on Friday. Quotes prices later shaded to \$16.58.

Saturday's meeting of the price monitoring committee of Opec in Vienna had been thought unlikely to produce substantive action. Instead it called a further meeting for April 23, to include talks with non-Opec producers such as Mexico and Egypt, to be followed by a meeting of all 13 Opec members two days later.

There were conflicting impressions yesterday of what action Opec might take.

Mr Belkacem Nabi, Algeria's oil minister, said he expected a definite decision to cut Opec output.

But Mr Gintanj Kartasmanita, Indonesia's new oil minister, said it had been decided the time was not ripe for Opec to cut its production ceiling - 15.06 million barrels a day, excluding Iraq.

Instead, he suggested, Opec would concentrate on enforcing discipline on those members who were cheating on their quotas.

It is not clear whether Opec will ask non-Opec observers to cut production by part of the 500,000 increase in non-Opec production over the past year or simply not to take advantage of cuts by over-producing Opec members.

Dealers said Brent prices were likely to stay above \$16 until after Opec's meetings.

Shares up 30 points as dollar stages recovery

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Share prices rose sharply on the London stock exchange as a recovery in the dollar reversed sterling's recent advance.

The FT-SE 100 share index gained 30.8 points (1.7 per cent), pushing the index back up over the symbolic 1,800 level to 1,810.5.

As the new account opened, dealers took their lead from another all-time record high in Tokyo yesterday - the Nikkei average rose 175.98 to 26,924.87 - and Friday's gains on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones index reached its highest level since the October crash. Share prices rose again in New York yesterday.

The dollar recovered against all leading currencies as dealers anticipated supportive official statements and actions at this week's Group of Seven meeting in Washington. It rose 1.3 pennings to DM 1.6855 in thin trading.

But the pound also fell against most currencies, producing a sharp drop of two cents against the dollar to close at \$1.8565. The sterling index fell half a point to 77.8.

The pound's rate against the mark, the focus of the Government's internal argument over

interest and exchange rate management, also fell back by just over a penny to DM3.1273 as dealers respected what they saw as a new short-term ceiling of DM3.15.

The pound fell partly in a delayed response to Friday's second base rate cut, exacerbated by an early fall of 2/16 in money market rates after the weekend news from Opec. Three-month money ended 1/16 lower at 8 3/16.

Dealers also reacted negatively to the 0.5 per cent rise in producer prices.

The reversal of sterling's recent strength, particularly against the dollar, was further good news for shares on the stock market.

While industry is more concerned with the sterling/mark rate, the stock market still pays more attention to the dollar rate.

This affects the sterling value of profits from US subsidiaries more immediately than the mark rate affects trading. Many leading companies in the 100-share index

have substantial dollar earnings and some of these recovered well from recent setbacks.

The dollar's gains were helped by a further fall in Japan's trade surplus in March, but owed more to sentiment inspired by expected bonhomie between finance ministers in Washington than to substantive changes.

Ministers in Japan, West Germany and the United States all stressed the need for currency stability.

Dealers are, however, awaiting Thursday's US trade figures, generally expected to show a February deficit of about \$11.5 billion (£6.2 billion).

The industrialized nations have agreed on a new programme to provide more concessional loan terms and greater access to resources for developing countries struggling to grow their way out of debt, a senior US Treasury official said (Bailey Morris writes from Washington).

Ministers attending the International Monetary Fund here are expected to endorse the new IMF programme and specific funding levels this week.

Oh, for heaven's sake, Prichett - let's worry about one thing at a time!

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Saatchi extends US network in \$2m deal

Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising group, is expanding its US corporate design side with the acquisition of the West Coast-based Cross Associates for up to \$2 million (£1.1 million), dependent on future performance.

Cross, which employs 25 people and has annual revenues of more than \$2 million, will become part of Saatchi's Siegel & Gale offshoot, after an initial consideration of \$500,000 is paid. Mr Jim Cross, the chief executive, has entered into a three-year service agreement with the British group. His company, formed in 1963, advises clients that include Bank of America, Security Pacific and Chevron.

£546,000 for Executex USM listing for Freeman

Executex Clothes, the tailor supplier, made pretax profits of £546,000 in 1987, against £452,000 previously. Shareholders collect a 1.5p final dividend giving them 3p for the year against 2.5p last time, and will also receive a one-for-five scrip issue. Earnings per share are up from a restated 11.9p to 13.6p.

The Freeman Group, which provides specialist distribution and contracting services for the building industry, is joining the USM tomorrow after a placing of 1.7 million shares. The placing, to be made through Lawrence, Frost, the broker, will raise an estimated £3 million. Freeman Group will initially be capitalized at £12 million.

Spirax-Sarco ahead

Spirax-Sarco Engineering's order level in the first two months of the year has shown an increase in real terms and the group looks forward to another year of growth, Mr Jim Parsons, the chairman, said in his statement in the report and accounts.

Spirax made pretax profits in last year of £18.95 million compared with £16.9 million in the previous year on turnover which was 4.3 per cent higher at £98.8 million. The total dividend was raised to 6.4p from 5.7p. Earnings per share were 16.4p against 14.5p. The group remains determined to increase its world market share and widen its product range both organically and by acquisition.

£1.25m buy for Bullough Theme profit rises by 75%

Bullough, the industrial holding group, is paying an initial £1.25 million cash for Refrigeration West Midlands, a privately-owned company. Refrigeration, which has two subsidiaries, Westkold Holdings and Lokold Refrigeration, is expected to make pretax profits at a rate of £200,000 a year in the 11 months to October 31.

Theme Holdings, the leisure group quoted on the Third Market, made pretax profits 75 per cent higher, at £711,000, in the year to the end of October. Turnover rose by 64 per cent to £6.7 million and a final dividend of 1.1p per share was declared. Theme operates restaurants in London and the United States.

Comac buys Shuter

Comac Group, which specializes in providing computer systems and programming staff, has agreed its first acquisition since joining the Third Market last June with the purchase of Shuter Smith Group for £700,000. Shuter operates in the same computers field but has a broader European client base. The purchase price will be met by £100,000 cash and the balance in shares. Shuter made between £90,000 and £110,000 in calendar 1987 on a turnover of £2.23 million.

Comac reported an 86 per cent rise in its own pretax profits to £187,144 in the year to December 31 on turnover of £5.79 million. A final dividend of 1.25p a share is being paid, against 1.20p indicated at the time of share placing.

Acquisitive Cannon sets hectic pace

Cannon Street Investments cheered the market with profits almost £1 million better than expectations at £12.7 million pretax.

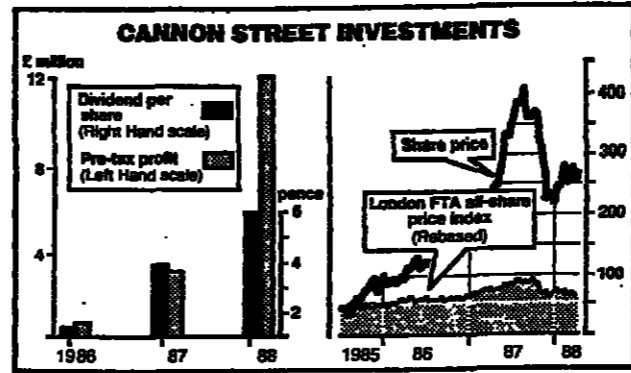
The stock market crash might have been expected to cramp the style of a company whose existence depends on buying private businesses and grooming them for eventual flotation. The crash has certainly taken its toll of Cannon's share price, which has come down from a high last year at 340p to 274p yesterday, up 5p on the day. However, Cannon will have no trouble paying cash instead of shares for future acquisitions. Its policy of buying cash-generative businesses, plus the £34 million rights issue of last summer, have provided a comfortable £20 million for the acquisitions kitty. Bank facilities are in place for a further £20 million.

Even in the heady days of the bull market, Cannon managed never to pay more than an exit p/e of about six. It should have no trouble maintaining its policy of keen buying in the new era of lower values. The hectic pace of acquisitions showed in the results. Twelve acquisitions last year contributed £7.45 million, or 58 per cent of profits. On an annualized basis they would have chipped in £10.5 million. Organic growth was also healthy, with profits from existing businesses up 68 per cent to £5.3 million.

The company itself sets store by its earnings-per-share growth and return on capital employed. Earnings on a fully diluted basis were up 80 per cent to 19.2p and the return on capital was a very healthy 36 per cent. There are no immediate prospects of floating any parts of the Cannon stable, the earliest float dates being tentatively pencilled in for the end of next year. Given the current uncertainty in the stock market, there is no great rush.

Wardle Storeys

The management skills applied by Mr Brian Taylor, chief executive of Wardle Storeys, to ailing manufacturing businesses have, to date, produced the goods. Interim pretax profits have increased sevenfold over the last five years



while earnings have quadrupled. This has been done not only by improving the operational efficiencies of businesses acquired, but also by refocusing product ranges and stepping up marketing strategies.

Thus, in many of Wardle's businesses, volume is no longer the name of the game. This can be seen by the five-year widening of group margins from 6 per cent to 21 per cent.

The once-for-all benefits from acquiring companies and integrating them into the existing businesses has made the most noticeable contribution to profits growth, but the continuing gains from further fine tuning are proving to be quite considerable.

Growth so far this year has been boosted by the inclusion of Weston Hyde Coated Fabrics. This accounted for more than half of the 93 per cent rise in operating profits from continuing businesses.

through this year and it has not yet been decided whether they will be treated in the extraordinary or exceptional category.

The group should make £16 million this year, giving earnings of 43p. The shares remain a sound investment.

Highland Distilleries

Like the fresh young heather shoots now pushing through the snow on the Scottish hillsides, new life is coursing through the Scotch whisky industry. Or so it looks, viewed from the perspective of Highland Distilleries.

Against a background of declining British whisky sales, Highland has seen sales of The Famous Grouse, its premium brand, jump 8 per cent in the last half year, giving it an 11.5 per cent market share. Seventy-five per cent of The Famous Grouse sales are in the UK, where it is Britain's second biggest brand after Bell's.

Overseas, where total industry sales have been growing at an annual rate of 3 per cent, sales of The Famous Grouse went up by 25 per cent in the half year.

But Highland's brands account for just 45 per cent of its profits. The rest is new fillings, and orders for new whisky fillings from blenders have risen by no less than a

third since the start of the calendar year. While this may be no more than a one-off replenishment of stocks as blenders reassess their stock levels in the light of projected demand, it will have a beneficial effect on Highland's second-half earnings.

But it may also mean that the industry is gaining confidence in its ability to increase its sales after years of indifferent performance, in which whisky has lost market share to wine and white spirits. Not least could be the effect of the Budget, which has marginally reduced the duty differential between whisky and beer and wine.

The distillers' latest grievance concerns the exclusion of gains on whisky stocks from the capital gains tax exemption on gains made prior to 1982. The industry still pays tax on the sales price less the original cost. Given that much of the increase in value of 10- and 12-year-old mats is due to inflation in the late 1970s, they have a case. It may be that the narrowing of the duty differential compared with other alcoholic drinks is in recognition of this.

The industry still has its problems, but this does not prevent Highland Distilleries from being a successful, fast-growing company generating cash at a prodigious rate. Full-year pretax profits should rise 16 per cent to £14 million, leaving the shares on a deserved premium multiple of 13.4.

ALPHA STOCKS

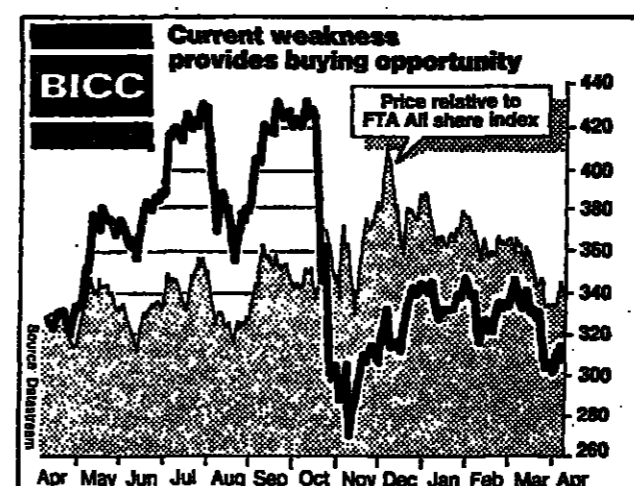
Table listing various stocks with columns for Vol '000, Price, and other financial metrics.

STOCK MARKET

Wall Street and the dollar help push share prices above 1,800

The latest wave of optimism sweeping Wall Street and the revived fortunes of the dollar were showing signs of rubbing off on investors in London yesterday as the new account made a flying start.

Dealers reported the appearance of a few cheap buyers, clearly hoping for some sort of sustained rally in the wake of a dismal, three-week Easter account which saw the London market fall by 4 per cent. This was in spite of strong performances from New York and Tokyo where share prices have now virtually recovered all their losses since the crash.



prevailed before the Budget changes took effect.

This one-off event should not now mask the fact that BICC's businesses are strong, highly cash generative and the Australian economy - where BICC has interests - is performing much better than expected. BICC is a quality company with a strong management team.

BICC reported excellent annual results last month, showing a 27 per cent pretax profit rise to £128 million. CNW are going for £145 million pretax in the current year and £165 million for next year.

Norcor, the building materials group, edged forward by 2p to 420p on speculative support.

Market-makers are not going short of the shares in the belief that another bid for the company is still on the way.

Williams Holdings, which failed in a bid attempt early last year, recently sold its 4 per cent (5 million shares) in Norcor to a mystery buyer.

It has been suggested that the shares were bought by Morgan Stanley Securities, the stockbroking arm of the American investment bank, which, it is thought, might be warehousing them for a client.

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, is the favourite to bid, but Redland, the building group, may also be interested.

RTZ jumped by 20p to 385p as dealers anticipated bumper preliminary profits when the group reports tomorrow.

County NatWest Woodmac is going for a 16 per cent increase in pretax profits to £285 million, while BZW forecasts £275 million.

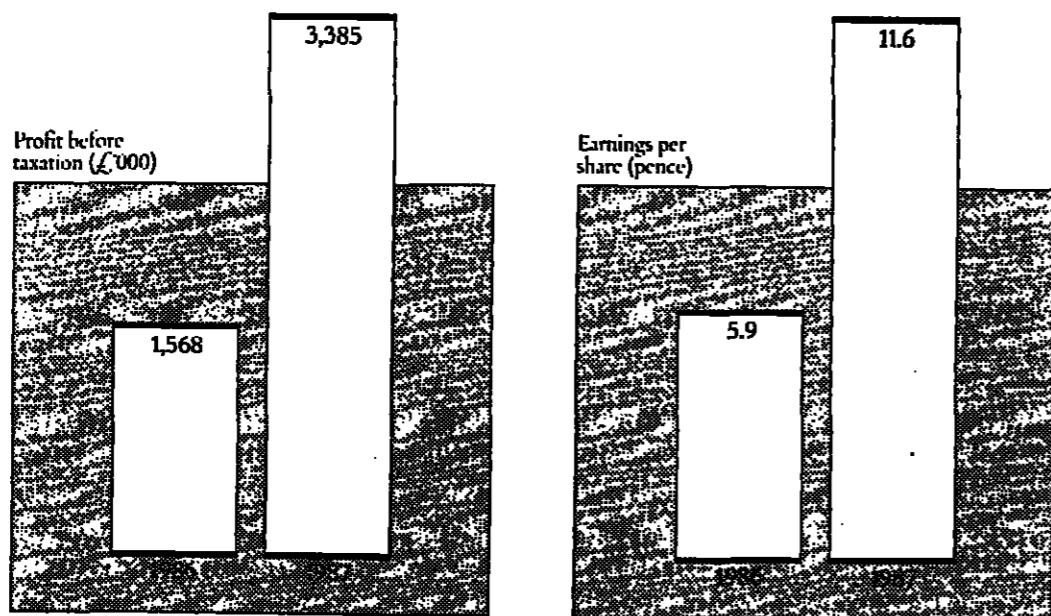
RTZ has been held in check recently by fears that the group is about to hit the acquisition trail. There has been talk that RTZ was on the verge of bidding for Data, the engineering group.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

WACE GROUP PLC 1987 RESULTS

THE LEADING PRE-PRESS GROUP IN THE UK

The most successful year in Wace's history. We have established the basis for the future.



EARNINGS PER SHARE INCREASED BY 97%

- The prospects are excellent.
We plan further real and sustainable growth and we will achieve it.
The profits to date for 1988 are well ahead of the comparable period for last year.



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Wace's £3.38m beats forecasts

By Alison Eadie

Wace Group, Britain's largest pre-press production group, beat City expectations with pretax profits of £3.38 million in the year to the end of December, compared with £1.57 million.

The figures were stated on a merger accounting basis. Turnover rose to £28.3 million from £21.7 million and earnings per share rose 97 per cent to 11.6p.

Mr John Clegg, the joint managing director, said the growth stemmed from good organic growth and the successful integration and rationalization of acquisitions. Productivity last year from existing and acquired businesses rose considerably and turnover per employee went up to £52,000 from £39,000.

Wace operations cover pre-press artwork for press advertisements, typesetting, printing and marketing services. It is continuing to look for acquisitions in all four areas of operation.

Although Wace is the largest pre-press production group in Britain, it has less than 3 per cent of a very fragmented market. It has the finances to go for large acquisitions with £3 million cash left from its £16 million rights issue last September and low gearing.

Wace's net assets grew to £30 million compared with £4 million the previous year, due to property acquisitions.

The final dividend is 2p, the first final since the loss-making days of 1980, taking the total to 3p.

Filmtrax's '\$60m deal'

Filmtrax is believed to be paying more than \$60 million (£32.3 million) for Columbia Pictures Music Group and Ivan Mogull Music in a move that will make it one of Britain's largest music publishing companies.

Filmtrax, founded in 1948, has produced music for films including Room with a View and Mona Lisa while the Columbia catalogue includes Ghost Busters and Stardust.



Courtts & Co. announce that with effect from 11th April 1988 until further notice the Deposit Rates on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal are as follows:-

- 3.00% per annum Gross*
2.00% per annum Net (the Gross Equivalent of which is 2.67% per annum to a basic rate tax payer).
Rates are subject to variation and interest is paid half-yearly in June and December.

*Not ordinarily available to individuals who are U.K. residents

440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

Underwoods in shake-up as it tells of profit decline

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Underwoods, the London-based chain of chemists, fell 8p to 136p on the announcement that the company is undergoing a big management reshuffle, after a fall in profits in the past year.

Mr Alan Gaynor, brought in as managing director earlier this year, is confident, however, that the company can bounce back in the current year. "This is a good company with a very sound base which has unfortunately lost its way. I am sure the new team which have come aboard can soon put it back on the growth path again," he said.

Mr Dennis Casey has resigned as deputy managing director of Underwoods (Cash Chemists), and Mr Henry Padolsky has resigned as marketing director of the same subsidiary. Nominal compensation terms are likely.

Smith Do-It-All chain after a previous career with J Sainsbury and Asda, has also cut back the central office staff from around 230 to fewer than 150.

Publishing Holdings to sell its magazines

By Joe Joseph

Mr Greg Thain's Publishing Holdings, whose magazine titles include *Equity International*, *What Mortgage* and *What Investment*, is negotiating the sale of its magazines division as part of a plan to focus on database management and its premium telephone services like Sharecall.

COMMENT David Brewerton

The rights choice for Lucas pension fund

The pensioners of Lucas Industries are about to dip their work worn hands into their pockets to invest £24 million in the company which keeps them in Old Holborn, Lucas Industries.

Unfortunately, those guidelines will come too late for the trustees of the Lucas funds, even if they postpone the rights decision until next week. The trustees are on their own, and although the percentage of the funds invested in Lucas, at less than 4 per cent, is no big deal there is an important issue at stake.

The National Association of Pension Funds is not at all enamoured of pension funds investing in the shares of their sponsoring companies, and in some countries it is against the law for them to do so.

But at the same time, they may wish to back yet again a company which seems to be going places. They have come to no harm backing the last rights issue at 365p in 1985, and are unlikely to suffer by pitching into the latest effort at 500p.

Profits ahead at British Island

By Martin Waller

British Island Airways, the charter airline, with Mr Peter Villa as chairman, made pre-tax profits of £1.63 million last year, up from £1.63 million in 1986. Turnover increased from £32.10 million to £38.54 million.



Mr Villa pictured on the tarmac at Gatwick Airport with one of his planes, owns more than 60 per cent of the equity.

Mr Villa pictured on the tarmac at Gatwick Airport with one of his planes, owns more than 60 per cent of the equity. He said plans for this year included a new headquarters at Gatwick and further expansion of the group's fleet.

Crash dents profits at Fortnum & Mason

By Carol Ferguson

Fortnum & Mason, the department store, increased its pre-tax profits by 19 per cent last year, despite finding itself with too much fashion stock at the year-end.

The strong dollar was still keeping the American tourists at bay, but there has been a compensating rise of Japanese tourists. This, says Mr Hamilton, explains the explosion in the demand for tea.

\$1bn Spalvins bid to restructure Adsteam

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr John Spalvins has launched the second stage of his restructuring of the Adelaide Steam Ship group (Adsteam) with a Aus\$1 billion (£393.7 million) takeover bid by National Consolidated (NC) for David Jones, the prestige retailer.

NC, the Melbourne-based engineering group, is unconditionally offering Aus\$9 for each David Jones share, 40 cents higher than the market's closing price yesterday.

Streamlined Folkes rises to £2.64m

By Michael Tate

Improving economic conditions in the West Midlands enabled Folkes Group, the property and engineering company, to lift pre-tax profits from £2.4 million to £2.64 million in 1987.

Only the property division turned in lower profits, at £1.45 million against £1.6 million, and that only because of lower gains on property sales.

The services division, which made profits of £335,000 against £250,000, is benefiting from its new building, equipment and buoyant demand.

And in consumer products, which made £655,000 against £400,000, demand for Ever-tidy kitchen furniture is good, says Mr Folkes.

Red letter day for Shearson

Whoops! The curt farewell letter sent out by Shearson Lehman Brothers last month to all Messrs' 1,800 erstwhile private clients, advising them to take their accounts to Nivison Cantrade, the stock-broking arm of the Swiss Banque Cantrade, seems to have met with a far wider audience than was originally intended.

A rebel bows out

David Bailey, director of institutional equities at Phillips & Drew, has become the latest old timer to quit the City of his own accord.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Going for touch down

Yuppie high-jinks in Hounslow followed a rugby match between traded option dealers from BZW and a team fielded jointly by Hoare Govett and Warburg on Sunday.

The services division, which made profits of £335,000 against £250,000, is benefiting from its new building, equipment and buoyant demand.

But an extraordinary item of £1.85 million relating to the closure of the Walsall-based Casper bedroom furniture division, and other rationalization costs have also been wiped out.

Robin's song

Likening the merger of Wood Mackenzie with County NatWest to the Death and Resurrection, WoodMac's Edinburgh-based investment trust analyst Robin Angus yesterday published a celebratory hymn to be sung to the tune of "We plough the fields and scatter".

us. Show bargains by the score. So deal with us! And deal with us! Then deal with us some more!



Among the latest batch of appropriate names - James Capel's Tokyo food analyst, Mr Chew, the secretary in Sotheby's wine department, Miss Swallow, and the funeral director in Hull by the name of R Boddy.

DIAMOND SERVICE

GUESS WHO'S FIRST INTO AMSTERDAM?

It's not British Airways. Not even KLM. Only British Midland can fly you into Amsterdam by 9.00am - and put you on the last flight out.

In fact British Midland have more weekday flights between Heathrow and Amsterdam than any other airline. Which means our schedule will fit your schedule.

And every British Midland flight to Amsterdam is Diamond Service. Which means you get the full Business Class treatment.

If you fly to Amsterdam, you know which airline means business.

HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM - AMSTERDAM - HEATHROW			
07.00	09.00	07.25	07.25
08.15	10.15	09.30	09.30
11.00	13.00	11.30	11.30
12.15	14.15	13.30	13.30
14.15	16.15	15.30	15.30
16.15	18.15	17.30	17.30
18.15	20.15	19.30	19.30
20.15	22.15	21.00	21.00

THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN HEATHROW AND AMSTERDAM.

BRITISH MIDLAND

DOLLAR HELPER

MOVE 1,800

prevailed before the changes took effect. This one-off event now marks the end of BICC's business in Australia. BICC has been performing much better than expected. BICC is a company with a management team that is well known for its performance. BICC reported a 20 per cent increase in turnover and a 15 per cent increase in profits. The company is now looking for new opportunities in the current market. The company's new strategy is to focus on high-growth areas. The company's new products are well received by the market. The company's new services are also well received. The company's new management team is well qualified to lead the company into the future. The company's new vision is to become a global leader in its industry. The company's new mission is to provide the best products and services to its customers. The company's new values are to be honest, to be fair, and to be innovative. The company's new motto is to "move 1,800".

Main table containing various unit trusts and their performance metrics, including columns for name, price, and change.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, and change.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Dollar, and Gold.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table detailing Sterling spot and forward rates for different terms and currencies.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table listing Dollar spot rates for various countries and currencies.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS

Table showing Euro money deposit rates for different maturities and currencies.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and metals.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts and their performance metrics.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices and related market information.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures prices for various instruments.

GE claims hot new ceramic breakthrough

Robert Matthews

Scientists at General Electric in the US have made a great breakthrough in the development of microelectronic devices able to exploit the properties of high-temperature superconducting materials.

Since the discovery in 1986 of ceramic compounds that lose all their electrical resistance when chilled with liquid nitrogen, scientists have sought ways to incorporate this relatively simple way of achieving superconductivity into existing technology.

For example, using superconducting interconnects made of the yttrium-based ceramics between microchip elements opens up the possibility of cramming far more computing power into smaller volumes.

This is because, having no electrical resistance, the interconnects would generate no heat when current flows through them, allowing components to be packed more densely.

Greater computing speeds would result, simply because the electrons in the circuits have less far to travel.

Until now, however, efforts to incorporate the new materials into electronics have been stymied by the fact that laying

down strips of the ceramic materials on the silicon conventionally used in most electronic devices leads to "inter-diffusion", and the disappearance of the superconductivity phenomenon.

Dr Antonio Mogro-Campero and his colleagues at the GE research team claim to have overcome this key difficulty.

He explained: "What happens is that the components of the superconductor mix with those of the silicon or silicon-dioxide substrate, causing a re-arrangement of elements. This destroys the superconductivity; you no longer have yttrium, barium and copper at the approximate 1:2:3 ratio required."

GE has found that the inter-diffusion problem can be overcome by putting a layer of the compound zirconia between the superconducting layer and the silicon or silicon dioxide.

The zirconia is deposited on the silicon, using electron-beam evaporation, in which the heat generated by high-energy electrons is used to boil off zirconia from a source, with the vapours then condensing on to the silicon.

The researchers were able to lay down a 0.4 micron-thick layer of zirconia on their test



Eye to eye on a great microelectronic development

specimens of .24in. by .75in. rectangles of silicon cut from a wafer.

The copper, barium and yttrium layers needed for superconducting ceramics were then laid down sequentially, and the whole "sandwich" annealed at about 850 degrees Celsius to convert the elements into a ceramic superconductor.

In subsequent experiments, the team has managed to get the "sandwich" to supercon-

Chief scientists lead on pay

SALARIES

By Matthew May

Chief scientists are doing best in the science and technology pay stakes, according to a management salary survey from the Reward group. They feature as the third highest paid in a survey of 25 industry groups, ranging from advertising to sales.

Chief scientists now have an average salary of £22,295, about 10 per cent higher than the national average for their rank.

Peter Brown of Reward lists privatization down as one reason behind the boost. He adds: "The percentage of senior scientific and technical people in the private sector is increasing."

Research and development managers are not faring quite so well, with an average salary of £20,000, having seen an annual increase around seven per cent compared to 10 per cent for chief scientists. But

Mr Brown puts some of this down to the way big companies, which usually pay better, often using the title "chief scientist" to denote a job that in smaller companies is called R & D manager.

As previous surveys have indicated, computer managers are still losing ground. The survey says "The assumption that accountants and computer managers are the highest-paid is not supported. Indeed, computer managers reach only sixth place in the highest-paid table."

The average salary for a new graduate is £8,500 and the pay for those who stay "shoots up much faster than other employees", the report says. Many companies are reviewing salaries for new graduates at six-month intervals.

For those with science and technology degrees, there is still a boom in recruitment, although, says Mr Brown, this possibly exceeds chemistry graduates where, because so many have studied chemistry at school and continue at university, there tends to be an over-supply.

A recent report from the National Computing Centre on the skills shortage in information technology, estimated the shortfall in experienced staff at 19,400 people, with a further need for at least 50,000 more people over the next five years.

But getting a degree in computer science may not be the answer. Some graduates with such degrees are considered unsuitable for employment in information technology. Only 14 per cent of trainees recruited as systems staff over the last two years had computing science degrees, according to the NCC survey.

HOW THE PICTURE CHANGES

	Lowest quarter	Median	Highest quarter	Annual change %
Chief scientist	19,153	22,295	28,025	9.8
R & D manager	17,050	20,000	23,650	7.1
Computer manager	17,500	21,000	25,393	7.7
Data processing manager	15,929	18,295	21,000	7.6
Information services manager	14,843	17,084	19,415	4.3

Source: Reward Salary and Living Cost Report

A chance to fly to a tropical isle



THE PRIZES: The first prize is a week for two on the island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean - France in the Tropics - and even your wise bill is paid for.



First you forget logarithms. Then you forget how to do long division. Then the multiplication table begins to go...

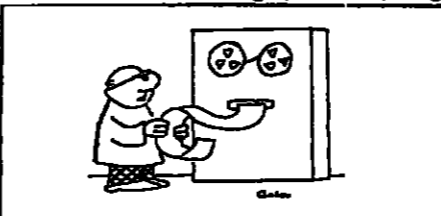
This is the third of our four weekly competitions to find the lighter side of new technology. We are asking you to provide different captions to the two cartoons illustrated above - preferably relevant to computing or high technology.

You may think of a new caption for either one or both of the cartoons and submit as many entries as you please enclosing the logo, top right, in each case.

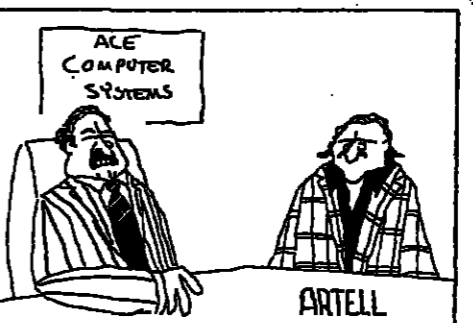
This week The Times/CMG competition would like to tax you with two levels of technology from different eras, one of them probably the world's oldest, if specialized calculating device. Unless you have a caption proving differently? It is just a suggestion and you do not have to take any notice. Judging by the entries so far, you probably won't anyway.

Though the mock accent that comedians use for Freud is impossible to reproduce in print we wish it were. He would certainly have had something to say about the continuing British passion for lavatorial humour, demonstrated in our entries so far. Captions for the cartoon shown below on the left covered toilet rolls, paper dispensers and associated television advertisements. There were also plenty of rude jokes about the awful clothes of one of the characters shown in the cartoon on the right.

The caption for the winner of our first week's competition is shown below with the cartoon on the left. He is Stanley Alderson of Cambridge and wins a week for two on an island somewhere. He might, however, not get



This is exactly my favourite way of unwinding - rummaging through computer printouts, my eyes bleary, Doc, of your long white capy tropical beaches



This is the prototype under my finger - the production model will be miniaturized of course

Air traffic at risk as radio navigation takes the strain

By Pearce Wright

A warning was given last month that air traffic would face "intolerable delays" in the next decade unless Europe's existing radio navigation networks were replaced by a more accurate and standard system.

The problem, examined at a special meeting called by the Royal Institute of Navigation, in London, is not restricted to the safety and efficiency of airline operations and military aircraft.

It is of equally vital importance to military and civil shipping, including leisure boats. Further, it could be crucial to replace the old systems if the application of radio navigation technology to the untapped market of land vehicles is to succeed.

The dilemma stems from the piecemeal development of radio navigation in the post-

war years. Replacement of those ageing and incompatible networks would probably cost the European governments £50 to £100 million in capital costs and up to £10 million a year in running costs.

All radio navigation systems need a network of transmitters. Their radio beams mark out the lanes along which to guide the world's airline pilots. The signals also provide seaborne navigators with the information to make an accurate fix of their positions.

But a different receiver is needed for each transmission system. And by an accident of history, Europe has inherited a mixture of systems, some usable irrespective of the type of vehicle, others confined to aircraft or ships, some military, but none designed to meet a standard set of criteria.

As a general rule, governments pay for these networks

and the users by the receivers. But the ranks of those users has suddenly swelled from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands. With the advent of the low-cost microprocessor, electronic position-fixing has in the last five years become a practical proposition for the myriad of small craft and opened the possibilities for cars and lorries.

Unlike the haphazard situation in Europe, the United States has an agreed federal radionavigation plan, with a timetable for phasing out obsolescent systems and replacing them with new technologies for position-fixing.

As it happens, three of the main systems covering Europe are maintained by the US government at no cost to the user.

Though the experts agree it is time for a unified European system, they are divided over the choice of new ground-based or satellite technologies.

The key part of the American plan is the US Global Positioning System, GPS, a worldwide, satellite-based navigation system. Developed for the military, it is on offer for civilian users.

One specialist in satellite technology who questions the desirability of adopting a military-controlled radio navigation aid for civilian purposes is Wally Blanchard, a former RAF navigator and director of a firm called Navigation Management. He proposes an intriguing cheap satellite scheme in which ground-based chains of transmitters are replaced by leasing channels of commercial communications satellites to transmit navigation and positioning signals.

Commercial cloning nearer

A new and powerful biological technology that enables livestock breeders to clone large numbers of identical animals from a single embryo is nearing commercial application in the US and Canada.

The cloning technique is the latest in a series of breeding technologies that have allowed animal scientists steadily to separate reproduction in livestock from natural mating and thereby gain much tighter control over the hereditary traits of cattle, pigs and sheep.

What breeders lacked, though, was a reliable technique for precisely duplicating superior animals. With the cloning technology, scientists are closing in on what has long been the ultimate objective in modern husbandry: achieving the same levels of uniform quality and production in farm animals that were once thought to be confined only to manufactured goods.

Moreover, the ability to successfully clone large mammals hints at the possibility in years to come that similar techniques might be devised for humans. Over the last 30 years, advances in animal reproduction technology have often presaged similar developments in human reproduction a decade later.

The technology marries cell fusion, a common technique used by molecular biologists, with several widely used animal reproductive technologies, the most important of which is the ability to transfer animal embryos from the genetic mother to a surrogate.

But animal cloning is unlikely to be widely available until the costs of the procedure decline, and the reliability increases.

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TECHNOLOGY



Managers - now log on for your next recruit



Richard Marsh: co-founder of a computerized recruitment service

Two former bosses of a recruitment agency have set up a computerized recruitment service...

Richard Marsh and Bob Birch, the two directors of the service, called the Shortlist... a database of candidates via a videotape terminal.

Mr Birch said that the system should work particularly well for jobs in high technology. It costs nothing for the job-seekers to go into the system...

unlimited access to one list of candidates.

The lists will range from medical and pharmaceutical, hotel and travel, to computing, communications, sales and marketing.

The claim is that companies could save considerably, particularly if they recruit several people per year...

Most of the subscriptions Mr Marsh and Mr Birch have already pre-sold have been of the lists for people in high technology.

Mr Birch said: "In high-tech areas, people have a fear that their CVs are being sent around willy-

JOBSCENE

By Caroline Berman

...illy by recruitment agencies, and they could end up in the wrong place...

"The potential employer asks for the full CV and we don't release these details unless the candidate agrees."

Another reason they hope that the system will work well in the high tech field is that there may be people with certain skills in some parts of the country...

candidates on the system for the full launch at the end of April.

To register candidates will be asked to ring a Teledata number (01-200 4444) when an application form will be sent...

The idea of a national database of job seekers has been around for some years.

In 1982 another videotape-based recruitment system was launched, although somewhat less scrupulously than this one.

Jobtel it was a system where job hunters had to pay for the privilege of advertising themselves on Prestel, having been told that Prestel was a system used by thousands of businesses.

were put up on screen, so there was absolutely no anonymity.

At the same time that this was going on, Professional Executive Recruitment, part of the Manpower Services Commission...

Mr Birch and Mr Morish are sufficiently confident about the Shortlist service to already have plans to launch a similar service in the US at the end of the year...



Bob Birch: With our system, a brief resume of a job candidate goes on screen

Research balances Apple between a snail and a bee

By Richard Pawson

An Apple Macintosh is equivalent in processing power to something between a snail and a bee.

Like many of his fellow researchers in robotics and artificial intelligence, Mr Moravec was intrigued with the question of how computers will overtake humans in intelligence.

Plotting the calculated values - expressed as bits per second per dollar - against the year of introduction for each machine, the result is a remarkably consistent exponential curve from Babbage's Analytical Engine through to the contemporary super-computers.

A curve of consistency

This is despite five fundamental changes in the enabling technology: mechanical adding machines, the therm-

ionic valve, transistor, integrated circuit and micro-processor.

Crudely speaking, the processing power available for a fixed cost is multiplying by 1,000 every 20 years.

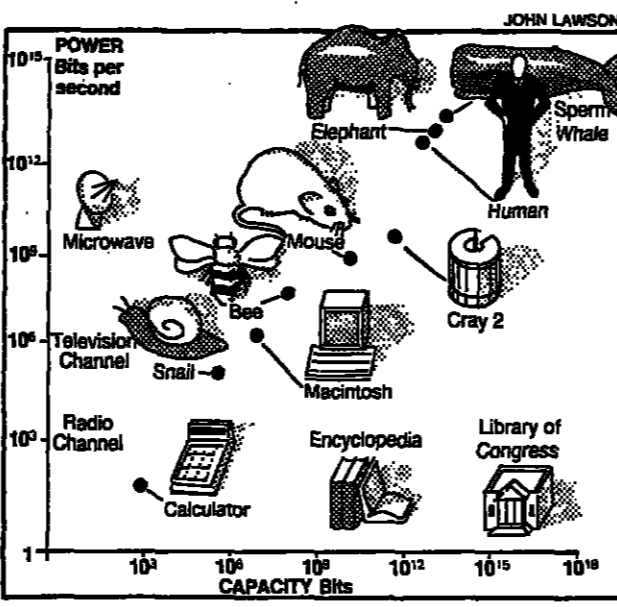
Meanwhile, how are the humans and animals doing? For Mr Moravec all animate brains are made up of neural cells - simple logic devices strung into massive networks.

Scientists cannot exactly define the specification of an individual neural cell - or "neuron" - but in recent years they have gained a pretty good idea.

It seems that each neuron can store approximately 100 bits of information, 12 bytes, and could process that quantity of data in around a second.

Hence the comparison between a Macintosh and a snail. But where do we fit in? Only a thousand times ahead of the biggest contemporary computers, according to Mr Moravec.

Now Mr Moravec is not claiming that a machine with the same processing power as the human brain will necessarily behave as intelligently. Such a realization will require a major shift in emphasis for



artificial intelligence research.

For many years the AI community has held doggedly to the belief that true intelligence lay in abstract reasoning...

The robot with intelligence

Computers are now quite good at these things; you can buy a vast range of expert system packages - even for a humble PC - but they remain utterly incompetent at tasks like visual perception and navigation around obstacles...

To build an intelligent robot we are going to have to re-learn that process of evolution "although we shall have the advantage of being able to look up many of the answers in the back of the book," says Mr Moravec.

Why number theory is no longer counted as useless

By Ian Stewart

It has been used to help map the surface of Venus by radar, from earth, and to improve the acoustics of concert-halls.

What is it? The answer is number theory, by venerable tradition the purest, most "useless" branch of mathematics.

These are typical problems of number theory: deceptively simple questions about ordinary whole numbers, which would be parlor tricks were it not for the appalling difficulty of answering them.

As the twentieth century draws to a close, mathematics once pursued as art for art's sake is becoming indispensable at the frontiers of technology.

Communications systems are making considerable use of ideas taken from number theory. Messages being sent around the world can fall prey to random noise generated by, say, solar flares.

To shield communication from such perils, engineers code their signals in clever ways based on the basic properties of numbers which enables the interference to be

picked out and the errors it introduces corrected.

Number-theoretic codes developed by space scientists are so powerful that they can perform the apparently impossible feat of taking a thinly scattered sampling of returned pulses and reconstructing a meaningful signal.

Designers of concert halls trying to get the best possible acoustics for the audience



The Royal Albert Hall and Venus: Linked by numbers

have been able to take advantage of a similar technique.

People absorb sound, so ideally the acoustic response of a concert hall should be measured with an audience present. Hiring an audience to sit on the sounding sessions is expensive, however.

Using number theory, the acoustics can be measured while a concert is under way. The trick is to transmit a very faint signal consisting of about 65,000 pulses repeating every two seconds.

The volume is kept so low that the audience cannot hear the test pulses. But the mathe-

tical regularities in their structure allows the sound engineers to filter out and

perhaps the most brilliant amateur mathematician of all time, wrote to a friend to say that he had made an interesting discovery.

This was that any number raised to a power which is a prime number, minus the original number, leaves no remainder when divided by the power.

Number theory is digital mathematics, and what could be more appropriate for a digital world?

The author is at the Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick. His recent book, The Problems of Mathematics, is published by Oxford University Press

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Law Report April 12 1988

Court of Appeal

Forgetting does not avoid possession

Regina v McCalla
Before Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Otton and Mr Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment March 30]

ited thing: R v Cugullere
(1961) 1 WLR 859; R v Buswell
(1972) 1 WLR 64; R v Russell
(1984) 81 Cr App R 315; R v
Martindale (1986) 1 WLR
1042.

Once a person had or possessed something knowingly, such as an offensive weapon, he continued to have possession until he or another person did something to rid him of it. Mere forgetting that he had possession was not enough to prevent the state of possession from continuing.

It was necessary to make one comment first. Where the cases concerned the question of drugs, the consideration was one of possession. In so far as the cases were concerned with offensive weapons, what was relevant was having the offensive weapon in a public place.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of Cleovus Errol McCalla against his conviction on November 11, 1987 at Inner London Crown Court (Sir David Hughes Morgan and five other judges) of carrying an offensive weapon. He was sentenced on that conviction to three months' imprisonment consecutive to 12 months' imprisonment imposed on his conviction of attempted unlawful wounding. On his conviction of reckless driving he was also sentenced to three months' imprisonment, concurrent, and was disqualified for three years.

Their Lordships thought that to have something with one necessarily required closer contact than mere possession. For the purpose of the instant case and the other four authorities, the relevant considerations as to recollection and forgetfulness were the same.

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 provides: "(1) Any person who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on him, has with him in any public place any offensive weapon shall be guilty of an offence...."

Their Lordships were driven to the conclusion that Buswell and Martindale could not be reconciled with Russell. As Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, had pointed out in Martindale, Russell was decided without the court being referred to Buswell, and their Lordships would hold that the decision in Russell must be considered as having been reached per incuriam.

Mr E.K. Coffe, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Andre De Moller for the Crown.

Negligent valuation surveyor can be liable to house purchasers

Davies and Another v Idris Parry
Before Mr Justice McNeill
[Judgment March 29]

of judicial opinion upon the effect of a disclaimer in a mortgage application.

Where evidence of structural damage was apparent during an inspection for a valuation report by a building society, liability could be established where there was sufficient proximity in the relationship between purchasers and valuer and reliance was known to have been placed upon that report.

Three recent Court of Appeal cases reached different conclusions as to whether the disclaimer was subject to the test of reasonableness under section 2(3) of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977: Phillips Products Ltd v Hyland (1987) 1 WLR 659; Smith v Eric S. Bush (a Firm) (1987) 3 WLR 889 and Harris v Wyre Forest DC (The Times December 22, 1987; [1988] 1 All ER 691).

The valuer could not rely upon an automatic blanket exclusion of all liability for negligence when his visual inspection of a property was not carefully performed and that would be particularly so when he was dealing with the lower end of the market and where it

His Lordship would favour the approach adopted in Smith applying the test of reasonableness for the particular facts.

This appeal involved consideration of four earlier decisions (which were concerned with the necessary mental element in having or possessing a prob-

MR JUSTICE McNEILL said that there were plain differences

session after obtaining it. Therefore Cugullere could stand properly and easily alongside Buswell and Martindale.

The basic principle underlying those cases was that once someone had or possessed something, be it offensive weapons or drugs he continued to have or possess it until something was done by him or another to rid him of it.

Mere forgetting that one had possession, having once had possession knowingly, was not enough to prevent the state of possession continuing. There was not, in the words of Lord Justice Phillips in Buswell, some sort of limbo into which the holding of the article went after recollection dimmed.

There had been no misdirection by the judge as to the requirement of knowledge that the appellant had the cash with him, and there was no need to leave to the jury the question whether the appellant had forgotten he had the cash with him.

He knew he had it with him when he picked it up from the building site and he continued to have it with him in the car. In so far as the statute was concerned, he had it with him in a public place, where the alleged offence was committed.

Further, their Lordships were satisfied that the fact that someone forgot that he had an

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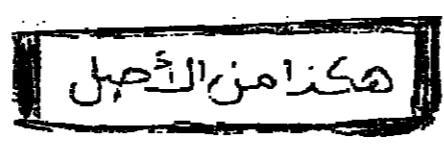
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Ela Romara may have the edge

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)
A number of factors persuade me that ELA ROMARA can account for Diminuto in the...

While not wishing to detract in any way from the other two, he still stands by his opinion because he is even more certain that Ela Romara was below par for some inexplicable reason.

Michael Stoute has decided against running Lustra, who finished behind Ela Romara at Newmarket first time out last year.

NEWMARKET Selections

- 2.00 Ile de Chypre. 2.35 DABAWAYAA (nap). 3.10 Ela Romara. 3.40 Rich Charlie. 4.10 Savra Sound. 4.40 Sincer Nectar.

Guide to our in-line racecard

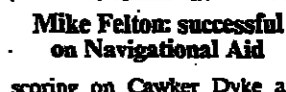
100 (12) 0-0-22 GOOD TIMES 74 (COB/F, G, S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hill 8-10-0 West 41 (6) Racecard number. Draw in brackets. S-B-figure...

Blinkered first time

Wolverhampton 3.00 Plan of Attack 4.0 Tyrant Process. 5.0 Miss Doyles.

Brassey's Stanwick Lad has trophy in sights after sixth success

Lambourn-based Kim Brassey, who considers his 60-horse string 'Forward and a better lot than last year', saddled his sixth winner of the season when Beaucaeuon justified 9-4...



Mike Felton: successful on Navigational Aid

Godfrey Mammrdell came with a late run on Redenham to beat the long-time leader, Sir Marmaduke (Guy Upton) in the adjacent race at the Royal Artillery.

FORM BLAKES SON (9-0) 2nd to Par

Blakes Son (9-0) 2nd to Par Quod (9-0) at Haydock (1m 2d, £2,042, heavy, April 2, 10 m).

FORM EVER SHARP (8-2) 2nd to Par

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Gardner's departure leaves no argument
By Nicholas Harding
It was taking too long for...

Kelly gets back in the saddle
By Paul Reid
Kelly has been back in the saddle...

Wolverhampton results
Goled: good to soft
2.30 (1) BEAUCADEAU (W. News)...

Course specialists
Wolverhampton 3.00 Plan of Attack 4.0 Tyrant Process...

WOLVERHAMPTON Selections

- 2.30 Anthony Loretto. 3.00 Anthony Loretto. 3.30 Macho Boy. 4.00 Crown Justice. 4.30 Habub. 5.00 Most Interesting.

4.0 TURFCAL APRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP

1 (17) 330/040. 46 DALLIGENCE 187 (D/F) (R. Eastwood) W White 6-9-13. 2 (1) 000/040. BELM ZERRO 364 (D,F,G,S) (D. Evans) D Green 6-9-9.

Wolverhampton results

Goled: good to soft. 2.30 (1) BEAUCADEAU (W. News) 9-4. 4.0 (1) 000/040. BELM ZERRO 364 (D,F,G,S) (D. Evans) D Green 6-9-9.

Course specialists

Wolverhampton 3.00 Plan of Attack 4.0 Tyrant Process. 5.0 Miss Doyles.

2.30 CYCLAMEN MAIDEN STAKES

1 (4) 0-0 AMALIA 8 (M) (M. Al-Hadad) J Thea 9-0. 2 (1) 0-0 APPEAL FOR HELP 289 (Hewson) S. Laidlaw 9-0.

5.0 PRIMROSE HANDICAP

1 (13) 419/80. ABIGO DONRO 217 (D,F,G,S) (J. L. Krassey) 9-7. 2 (1) 222/110. FAIR LATTERS 227 (M) (V. S. G. Vignos) 9-11.

2.15 RHODE ISLAND REID

2.15 Rhode Island Reid. 2.45 Goodman Point. 3.15 Brave Defender. 3.45 The Somac. 4.15 Boldacre Star. 4.45 Super Express.

Folkstone

Goled: good to firm. 1.45 (5) 1. BLUE MONEY (Par. Edgley) 7-12. 2.0 (2) 1.1. RIBBONS (W. News) 10-11.

3.0 FORGET-ME-NOT SELLING STAKES

1 (4) 0-0 HONKY PLEASED 234 (Highfield) L. H. Bessley 9-11. 2 (4) 0-0 NEADY 6 (M) (M. J. Duce) R. Stubbs 9-11.

4.0 NARCISUS MAIDEN STAKES

1 (14) 000/40. BITTER CREEK 18 (R. Richmond) H. O'Neill 9-0. 2 (3) 0-0. BLUEHEAVEN FLYER 188 (M. Quigley) R. Holder 9-0.

2.15 RHODE ISLAND REID

2.15 Rhode Island Reid. 2.45 Goodman Point. 3.15 Brave Defender. 3.45 The Somac. 4.15 Boldacre Star. 4.45 Super Express.

Hexham

Goled: soft (heavy patches). 2.0 (2m) 4m. 1. PRISTINE (A. Ormsby) 3-11. 2.0 (2m) 4m. 1. PRISTINE (A. Ormsby) 3-11.

3.30 TULIP HANDICAP

1 (15) 2203-31. QUEENBURY 205 (G,S) (M) (M. J. Duce) R. Stubbs 9-11. 2 (2) 0-0. ROCKY REEF 178 (M) (M. J. Duce) R. Stubbs 9-11.

4.0 NARCISUS MAIDEN STAKES

1 (14) 000/40. BITTER CREEK 18 (R. Richmond) H. O'Neill 9-0. 2 (3) 0-0. BLUEHEAVEN FLYER 188 (M. Quigley) R. Holder 9-0.

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Course specialists

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FOOTBALL: MANCHESTER UNITED MANAGER HAS HIS SIGHTS AND HOPES ON A RETURN TO EUROPEAN COMPETITION

Ferguson vows to hold his players to their contracts

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, insisted yesterday that Norman Whiteside and Paul McGrath will not be allowed to leave the club until suitable replacements have been found.

McGrath, the Irish international, handed in an official transfer request last week, 48 hours after the United board of directors had reluctantly agreed to allow Whiteside, valued at £2 million by Old Trafford, to leave the club.

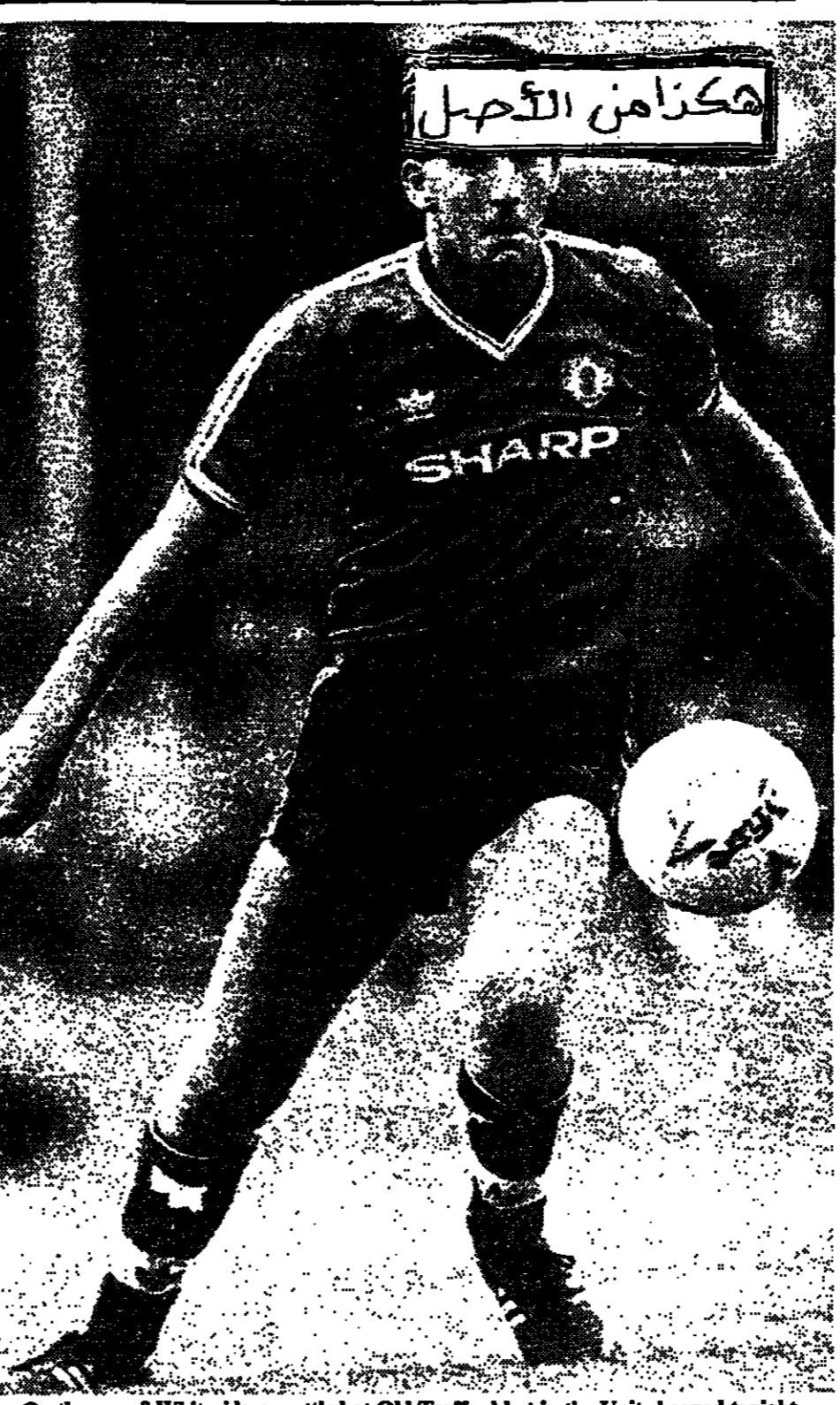
Adams, the England international centre back, returns to the Arsenal squad after missing Saturday's 4-2 defeat at Southampton because of flu. George Graham, Arsenal's manager, has left out Steve Williams, Martin Hayes and Perry Groves, with Niall Quinn and Graham Rix recalled.

Liverpool players top of poll

John Barnes, of Liverpool, has been named player of the year by the Professional Footballers' Association.

Bradford envision sweeping changes

Bradford City are to double the capacity of their Valley Parade ground to generate more cash in a remarkable renaissance which has witnessed survival from bankruptcy, the appalling fire and a struggle against relegation just over a year ago.



On the move? Whiteside, unsettled at Old Trafford but in the United squad tonight

Competitors have their say

More than 250 of Britain's leading competitors are to be invited by Colin Moynton, the Minister for Sport, to attend a conference on the future of British sport.

At the moment there is no forum for competitors in all sports to voice their opinions, whereas the governing bodies do have such opportunities at events like the CCPA National Conference and in individual meetings with the Sports Council, which allocates Government money.

The Minister will make the opening address. Among the other areas which are likely to be discussed are: the competitors' role in the administration of sport; sponsorship; sports medicine and drug abuse; and the role of the media.

Rich season nears end

Glenavon face a hectic finish to a season that has been rich in football, they have played (George Ace writes). They stand on the threshold of a league and cup double, most recently secured on 1951.

PSV reach threshold

PSV Eindhoven virtually clinched their third consecutive Dutch championship at the weekend with a 1-0 win over AZ Alkmaar.

Overseas results

ARGENTINA: Racing de Cordoba 1, Platense 0; Newell's Old Boys 0, San Lorenzo 0; Gimnasia y Esgrima 0, Boca Juniors 0; Independiente 0, Boca Juniors 0; Boca Juniors 1, River Plate 1; Union de Santa Fe 0; Deportivo Espanol 1, Ferro Carril Oeste 1; River Plate 1, Boca Juniors 1; Deportivo Armenio 0, Rosario Central 1.

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FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: SUPERBOWL: Pittsburgh Steelers 16, New England Patriots 10.

FOR THE RECORD

GOLF: PINEHURST: Tiger Woods 65, Greg Norman 66, Tom Watson 67.

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HOCKEY: NHL: Edmonton Oilers 4, Calgary Flames 1.

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SNOOKER

Professional ranks set to welcome young amateurs

lan Doyle, the manager of Stephen Hendry, disclosed plans yesterday to open up the game to young players like Hendry by making it easier to become professional.

Pakistan spinners earn lead of 197

After Keith Arthurton completed a sparkling 124, the Pakistan spin bowlers proved too good for the rest of the West Indies Under-23 XI here yesterday on the fifth day of the match.

Wait over for umpires

The first-class umpires will be better informed this season of the marks they are given by county captains after each match.

Promotion priority in new role

The man charged with the responsibility of making amateur Rugby League a national game by 1995 is an Irishman born in Limerick, a town where Rugby League is not played.

Ronaldson slips to third place

Chris Ronaldson, the former world champion, failed at the quarter-final stage of the two major tournaments that have just been concluded in Australia.

SNOW REPORTS

SCOTLAND: Calington upper and middle runs, snow complete, wide cover, spring snow; lower slopes, snow complete, wet snow.

Advertisement for '7 days to... TODAY'S GOLFER' magazine, featuring a golfer and the text 'First issue out Thursday'.

Cox is angered by Maxwell's move for Cruyff

Arthur Cox put his future as the £60,000-a-year manager of Derby County in jeopardy yesterday with an extraordinary public attack on Robert Maxwell, his club chairman. Cox issued a Press statement deploring Maxwell's action in offering a position of technical director to Johann Cruyff without prior consultation.

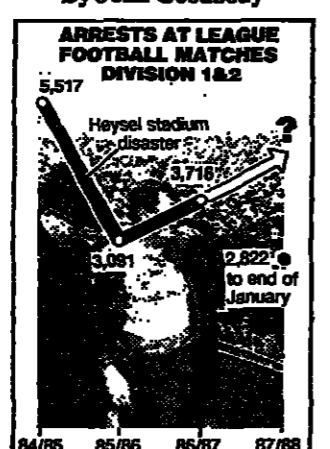
"If he is not pleased with my achievements he should at least tell me to my face. He might remember that I have an agreement that I recommend any appointments on the playing side and it has four years to run." Cox did not confine his response to observations on Maxwell's move to Cruyff.

Arrests on the increase at first division games

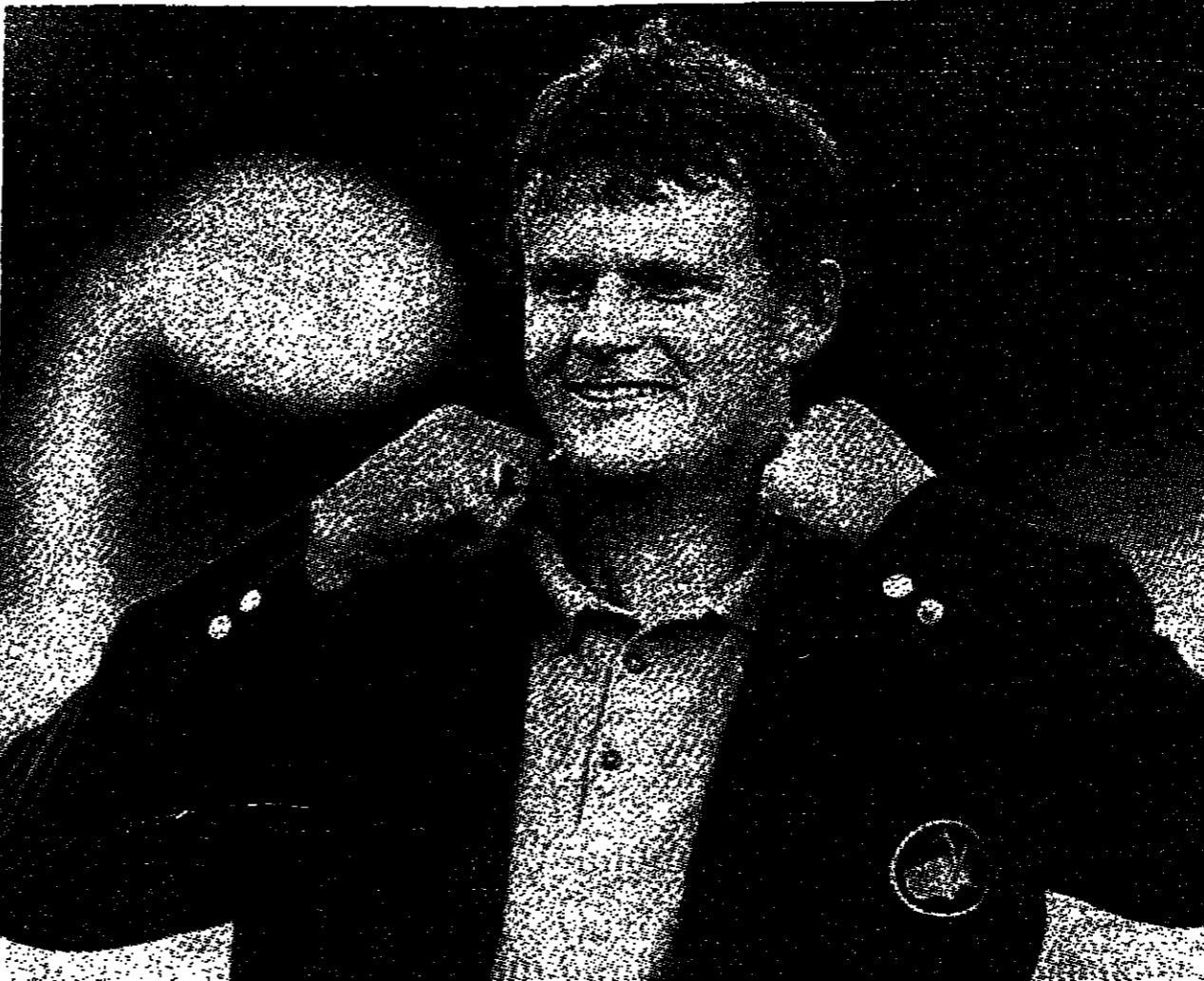
The number of arrests at first and second division football matches this season is rising, so continuing a trend since the Heysel stadium disaster three years ago. Figures, given to The Times, up to the end of January show a 74 per cent jump in arrests at first division games and two per cent at second division matches compared to the same period last season.

This season, 1,521 people have been arrested at first division games, compared with 874 last season, and 1,301 at second division matches compared with 1,275 in 1986-87. The total of 2,822 until the end of January compares with 3,716 for the whole of 1986-87.

David Phillips, the secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' sub-committee on hooliganism in sport, said yesterday that he expected there would be "some increase" when all the arrest figures are collated at the end of this season. But he warned that there is a danger in drawing too many conclusions from intermediate figures during a season.



Arrests at league football matches (Division 1 & 2) from 84/85 to 87/88.



Putting on the green: the coveted Masters jacket is Lyle's following his final-hole victory at the National course on Sunday.

Modest Lyle finds himself the scourge of American golfers

American golfers are united in the belief that one of Ronald Reagan's last acts as President should be to confiscate Sandy Lyle's visa. It would appear to be their only guarantee against Lyle not becoming the first British golfer to lead the US money list at the end of a season following his historic triumph in the 52nd Masters on the Augusta National Course here on Sunday.

Table titled 'STIM EARNINGS IN EIGHT MONTHS' showing earnings for various events like European Masters, Ryder Cup, etc.

Instead, the phlegmatic Lyle lofted a magnificent seven-iron shot out of the fairway bunker at the 18th and the ball landed some 28 feet behind the hole. It momentarily paused before, as if willed by the gallery, it began to slowly roll back towards the sanctuary of the hole.

Ban on SA tour players unlikely

The Rugby Football Union, in the words of Dudley Wood, their secretary, "will not facilitate" the proposed international tour to South Africa this summer by issuing on invitations to players. But it was announced yesterday, the RFU full committee will discuss the whole issue on April 29 - though it is unlikely they will follow the Welsh Rugby Union line and ban any player from taking part.

Coach on the way

Joe Whelton, the coach of Great Britain's Olympic basketball squad, is leaving Manchester United after a five-year spell in charge. He is considering a number of offers and is almost certain to accept the one from the Swiss club, Fribourg.

England face captain crisis

The England under-21 team, who play France in the European under-21 championship semi-final tomorrow at Besencon, is so badly hit by withdrawals that Dave Sexton, the manager, was unable even to name his captain when the depleted squad flew out yesterday. (Clive White writes.)

Kicking a giant when he is down

This is an age of anti-heroes in sport, as in life. Rules, tradition and sportsmanship too often are spat on or laughed at by the modern sporting superstar with his retinue of agents, sponsors and hangers-on. But what did respect for tradition and sportsmanship bring John Charles, whose move to Italy for a then astronomical £65,000 transfer fee in 1958 proved a big factor in the abolition of the maximum wage?

A testimonial shared with Bobby Collins at Elland Road tonight a narrow escape from being sent to prison for payment of rates; and his current state as an unemployed man of 56 living in a small semi-detached in a little village between Leeds and Halifax.

In its prime Charles's fame gave him the aura of a Greek god; but he was more than just a big man who was good in the air on the football pitch. He also possessed a delicate and dextrous touch. And he was a genuine hero.



Charles: gentleness itself

match in Paris. They had wonderful players at the front but they were a very hard team at the back. The treatment he endured so stoically persuaded me that he did not use his own power enough. "I feel he likes to play football without contact, which is patently impossible," carped Stan Collis, manager of Wolverhampton, who had Eddie Clamp, the 1950s precursor of Peter Stoney and Vinny Jones, as his midfield enforcer.

Charles played the game his way without regrets. "I did get kicked a lot but my height and weight carried me through. And I was aggressive. If I went for a ball, it was mine, but as for kicking or belting people, I didn't like that."

That holy innocence carried him through his football. It probably unsettled him for business, leaving him as another great star with little but memories, but it undoubtedly helped him transfer successfully to Italy. Yet in his day a move to Italy was stepping into a different culture. Italian football and footballers were almost unknown rather than regular visitors to our television screens.

Good start

England started their defence of the four nations' under-18 schoolboys' hockey championship at Linwood, yesterday by beating Scotland 4-0.

Centre stage

The two-day final stage of the £5,000 Bristol & West championship of champions indoor bowling event starts today at the Thornbury Leisure Centre near Bristol.

Rugby sell-out

All 55,000 tickets for the Middlesex seven-a-side finals, at Twickenham on May 7, have been sold.

Home winner

Eddie Lawson won the first United States motorcycling grand prix in more than two decades at Monterey, California, on Sunday.

The Mortgage Corporation National League advertisement with logo and contact details.

Dennis is detained in hospital

Mark Dennis, the Queen's Park Rangers defender who recently completed an eight-match ban following the eleven-month dismissal of his career, was yesterday detained in hospital in Croydon with injuries following an early-morning dispute over hailing a taxi.

According to Rangers, Dennis was in hospital having stitches in a head wound; it was understood that he and two friends had been involved in an argument with another group.

Dennis, who was suspended by the Football Association on a charge of bringing the game into disrepute following his dismissal at Tottenham in November, has made one brief appearance as a substitute since the end of his long ban.

There has been much confusion on this issue, notably over whether the 12-week ban applies on homecoming. First the board said it did, but the RFU confirmed yesterday that it does not; thus Winterbottom will escape the ban at both ends, having made all his arrangements before the board made their directive.

Coming back

Sussex are hoping to sign the Australian all-rounder, Tony Dodemaide for 1989. He joined Sussex in 1985 and returned home after gaining his second XI cap.

Grand prix

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union is considering holding its first international tennis grand prix tournament next year, the Soviet government denied daily, Izvestia, said yesterday.

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Various vertical advertisements on the right margin including 'PLO', 'AI', 'Paton dies in Durban', and 'INDEX'.